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Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-206 *25 October 1988*

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Cuba

Medical Brigade Delivers Aid to Nicaragua

FL2410144088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega noted to the press the solidarity gesture of Cuba, the first country to send aid in the aftermath of Hurricane Joan. The Cuban brigade, composed of professionals of various medical specialties, delivered medicine, plasma, foodstuffs, and first-aid and other supplies directly to Bluefields. [passage omitted]

800,000 Participate in Defense Day in Havana

FL2410173488 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Over 800,000 people participated actively in the defense day held in Havana yesterday. Broad attention was paid to the material basis of study at the training centers. Maneuvers and exercises of diverse complexity were carried out. A national high-ranking commission will visit the province today to see if conditions have been met so that it can be declared ready for defense, first stage.

Pinar del Rio Participates

FL2410163088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Over 250,000 Pinar del Rio people have participated in defense day. Fidel Ramos, first secretary of the party in the province, described it as a defense day of exceptional magnitude.

Division General Senen Casas Regueiro, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and FAR first vice minister, headed a group of officers who toured some areas related to defense. They were able to observe how the planetarium and computer rooms operate at the Cuba-USSR scientific-recreational youth center. They also saw how the Camilo Cienfuegos military school's large installations are used by students, workers, and residents of the area, as well as the preparations for the 20th anniversary of the school.

Senen Casas spoke with sculptor Jose de Larra, who is giving the final touches to a Camilo Cienfuegos statue which will be placed at the school's entrance. Later, Casas Regueiro planted the tree which made the Pinar del Rio territory reach 35 million trees planted this year, which is a record.

Interior Ministry Party Leaders Hold Meeting

FL2410162088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1330 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Division General Jose Abrantes, member of the PCC Central Committee and interior minister, has delivered the closing speech at the first national meeting of the Interior Ministry [Minint] party leaders. The interior minister said that the main duty of the Minint combatants is to be ready to defend the revolutionary power and our fatherland's accomplishments.

He noted that they should examine thoroughly the new and much more demanding work period, which has already began to be implemented at the Minint. Abrantes said current work achievements in the fulfillment of the assigned missions can be seen in the Minint in the organizational field, training of the forces, and elimination of the deficiencies and mistakes which had been made.

Nevertheless, the Minint combatants cannot be satisfied with what has already been achieved; problems remain, and work needs to continue to improve. He said the revolution, the party, and our people need organs that are capable of defeating the plans of the enemy and capable of suppressing crime.

Hungarian Attorney General Meets Rodriguez

FL2110032888 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0232 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received in our capital today Dr Karoly Szijarto, attorney general of the Hungarian People's Republic, who is paying a visit to our country. An exchange took place regarding the reforms the two countries have been carrying out in their respective judicial systems and codes in the last few years as well as aspects of economic development in Cuba and Hungary.

Signs Protocol

FL2210023588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] A cooperation protocol between the Attorney General's Offices of Cuba and Hungary for 1989-1990 was signed in this capital today. The document includes the most important aspects of mutual interest in the legal sphere. It was signed by Dr Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa, attorney general of the Republic of Cuba, and his Hungarian counterpart, Dr Karoly Szijarto.

Among the commitments included in the protocol are the exchange and reciprocal coordination in the international field, cooperation between scientists, professionals, and attorneys from the two countries, as well as the comparisons of experiences in relevant areas of the sector.

Dr Karoly Szijarto has been in our country on a working visit since 14 [as heard] October.

PRC Delegation Arrives To Display Machinery

FL2210143388 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] A Chinese delegation of specialists and merchants has arrived in Cuba to display their accomplishments in the agricultural machinery and light industry fields. The exhibit will be displayed in Pabexpo as of 1 November.

Hart Welcomes Nigerian Information Minister

FL2410164888 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Prince Tony S. Momoh, minister of information and culture of Nigeria, has arrived in our country heading a delegation which will hold talks with Culture Ministry and ICRT [Cuban Radio and Television Institute] officials. Comrade Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and culture minister, welcomed the Nigerian minister. The Nigerian delegation will visit Santiago de Cuba, cultural institutions, and other places of interest.

Colombian Ship Detained; Marijuana Confiscated

FL2510005888 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0029 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Members of the general directorate of the Border Guard Troops have captured a ship named "Cimarron," flying a Colombian flag, for violating Cuba's territorial waters in the area of Cayo Pajaro, Granma Province.

After a warning was sounded, 177 packages of marijuana, weighing more than 7,900 pounds, were confiscated. Ship captain Juan Jose Estupeyan, 32 years old, and crew members Luis Torres de Norio, 50 years old; Enrique Paredes Estupeyan, 42 years old; Wilben Augustin Hurtado Murillo, 34 years old; and David Jimenez Guerrero, 30 years old, were on board the 36-foot yacht. The men said they are all Colombian and residents of Cartagena.

The detainees and the ship have been placed at the disposition of the appropriate authorities and the drug was immediately incinerated.

Friends, I repeat a last minute report from our national news division:

Members of the general directorate of the Border Guard Troops have captured a ship called "Cimarron" under the Colombian flag for violating Cuba's territorial waters in the area of Cayo Pajaro, Granma Province. After a warning was issued, 177 packages of marijuana, weighing more than 7,900 pounds, were confiscated and later incinerated.

Antigua and Barbuda

Incident Involving Jamaican Visitors Investigated

FL2210145388 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] St John's, Antigua, Oct 21, CANA—The Antigua and Barbuda Government has ordered an investigation into an incident at the airport here Wednesday night involving 12 Jamaican visitors denied entry and then allowed into the country conditionally.

A statement from the Prime Ministers' Office said the government appointed 3 member committee will begin its investigation on Monday and submit a report within 14 days. According to the statement, the Jamaican visitors were initially refused entry, apparently on the grounds that they had no "visible" means of maintaining themselves in Antigua. Upon denial of entry, the statement said, an "altercation" occurred between the Jamaican visitors and immigration officers at the V.C. Bird airport.

The statement said the matter was subsequently reported to senior immigration officials who immediately gave approval for the visitors to be permitted entry and to remain in Antigua until November 9, on the condition that they report to police headquarters on October 20, when further investigation would have been made into the matter.

The government's investigating team will comprise a senior policeman and a legal officer along with the aerodrome superintendent.

Dominica

Prime Minister on Private Enterprise, Taxes

FL2410230488 Bridgetown CANA in English 1603 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Oct 24, CANA—Lower corporate and personal tax levels, privatisation of the state-run water company, and continued invitations for foreign investors are on the drawing board for the island of Dominica, according to Prime Minister Eugenia Charles.

Ms. Charles said in an interview with the Trinidad SUNDAY GUARDIAN, that she was also concerned about the entrepreneurial qualities of the country's business community.

Asked about the role of private enterprise in Dominica today, Charles said: "If they move, the country will move and I feel our private enterprise is not taking advantage enough of that." "They still are merchants. That doesn't help to develop the country. They are necessary, but I want more and more entrepreneurs," Charles said.

Charles said Dominica offers several concessions to both foreign and local entrepreneurs to develop business, but local entrepreneurs had been most successful in this field.

"We don't have that many coming in," she added.

On the question of taxation, Charles said her ambition was to lower the personal tax threshold to 20 per cent for everybody. The present rate ranges between 25 and 45 per cent. "The corporate level is 35 (per cent), down from 45. I'm hoping to go to 30," Charles said.

Asked how such tax rates had affected government's revenue, Charles said: "We find that our revenue is much better. Business is better too. We have lost nothing by reducing it."

Asked about the role of private enterprise in Dominica, Charles said:

"Government cannot run business. Government is so moulded that it cannot make the decisions which business requires to be made as quickly as they must be made.

"So I think government should not be running business. They have enough business running, because government is the biggest business. So we should shed all the other things and let the people who are attuned to it, do it."

Commenting on the privatisation of Dominica's electricity company, Charles said 20 per cent had been earmarked for workers at the company, offered on an installment plan. Forty per cent was kept by government—a figure Charles said she planned to reduce to ten per cent as soon as the company had settled and done its business.

Questioned on other plans to privatise, Charles singled out water, noting that the service was in "a very bad state" but improving with government assistance. "The Canadians are helping me to do this and I've told the Canadians that, as soon as I put it in order, I'm going to go public with it and they've agreed to that."

On Dominica's attitude to foreign investment, Charles said her government had no problem with allowing repatriation of profits made by foreign companies. She added, however, that Dominca would like to encourage such companies to invest further in the country.

United Workers Party Leadership Elected

FL2410152088 Bridgetown CANA in English 1805 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Oct 23, CANA—Former General Manager of the Dominica Banana Marketing Corporation Edison James has been elected political leader of the United Worker's Party of Dominica, the country's newest party. James was elected unanimously by the 83 delegates representing 18 of the 21 constituencies at the first business session of the four-month-old party here Saturday. The post of deputy political leader went to former senator and businessman Julius Timothy.

Also elected unanimously were former minister of agriculture in the Labour Party Government, Thomas Etienne, as chairman, Norris Prevost as secretary, Regina Newton-Walsh as assistant secretary and Julius Timothy as treasurer. Insurance executive John Rolle was elected deputy chairman, while William Charles of the northeastern village of Marigot was elected assistant treasurer. Thirteen committee members were elected as well as three trustees—Hughes Baptiste, Richmond Shillingford and Samuel Jacob.

The delegates approved one resolution which said: "We the first convention of the United Workers Party solemnly declare our firm belief in the dignity of the human person and pledge ourselves to the development of our people as the most important task in building an independent nation under God."

The meeting also reviewed and endorsed its constitution.

Grenada

Ministry Denies Amnesty International Report

FL2210142888 Bridgetown CANA in English 1946 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Oct 21, CANA—A spokesman for the Grenada Ministry of Security has denied that Phylis Coard, condemned to hang for the 1983 murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, and others, is being held in solitary confinement in the Richmond Hill Prison.

The spokesman was commenting Thursday on the recently published Amnesty International (AI) 1988 report which expresses concern that Coard, wife of former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, "continued to be held in solitary confinement."

"Mrs Coard is in the female section of the prison and she is there alone because there are no other female prisoners at this time," the spokesman said.

In addition to Coard, thirteen other persons are in death row at Richmond Hill Prison in connection with the same incident. All were tried and found guilty of the murder of Bishop, members of his cabinet, and others in a bloody October 19 incident which arose from a power struggle in the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG). An appeal against these convictions has been lodged and is currently being heard, but the AI report says these persons have been allowed to confer with their lawyers only within the hearing of a prison guard.

Two AI representatives came to Grenada last November and were allowed to visit the prisoners at Richmond Hill. The spokesman said that in discussions with Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, these representatives had complained that they too had not been allowed to speak privately with Coard and the other persons under sentence of death.

The spokesman said it had been pointed out to the AI representatives that, according to prison rules drawn up by the PRG in 1980, and still in effect, a prisoner under sentence of death cannot confer with anyone, including his legal counsel, unless it is within the sight and hearing of a guard.

The AI report expressed concern also about reports that Mrs Coard had been punished with a bread and water diet because she had asked the prison authorities about certain papers connected with her appeal which had been left for her and which she did not receive.

The spokesman said he knew nothing of this, but did know that all 14 condemned persons had been supplied with a full transcript of the evidence taken at their trial.

With reference to the AI charge that there are reports that Coard and other prisoners had been placed on bread and water punishment diets without daily medical supervision, the spokesman said he is unaware of this.

"Any prisoner complaining of feeling unwell, whether they are under punishment or not, he or she, automatically, must be referred to the prison doctor," he said.

If, in the doctor's opinion, the prisoner should go to the general hospital for treatment or for any other reason, that transfer is effected immediately, the spokesman said, adding that Coard has been transferred to the hospital on several occasions for the taking of X-rays and for medical treatment.

Haiti

Avril Speaks on Electoral Process, Constitution

FL2410182288 Port-au-Prince Domestic Radio and Television Service in French 2200 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Address to the nation delivered by General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, from the National Palace—live]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Here we are today, approximately 1 month after the historic date of 17 September 1988, which consecrates the Haitian people's desire for change. Since it is our mission to preside over this change, we weighed fully the scope of the task to be accomplished. We realized from the outset that the revival of Haiti requires a national consensus with a view to establishing a society that is undivided and that reconciles the imperatives of social justice with those of economic progress.

None of this is possible without building, in peace, a stable political structure, in order to establish the foundations of this democracy—a democracy which we would like to be irreversible and which is a condition sine qua non for a better life for the Haitian people.

Despite the snags encountered throughout this first month of government, and up until last weekend's events, the balance sheet is far from negative. Through our actions, we have proven our good faith, our desire for dialogue, and our determination to lead the country in the direction of the population's demands.

We can understand the impatience of certain people, who would like to see the process reach its end as quickly as possible. Let them be reassured. However, it is more important to do things properly than quickly. The situation is extremely complex.

There are four important issues dominating the current juncture in Haiti: public peace, the electoral process, the Constitution, and the economic situation. In our opinion, the rescue of the nation depends on the solutions that are provided to these problems.

The most important thing is to see to it that peace is reestablished—because the outburts of passion stemming more often than not from clashes between conflicting interests or ideologies continue to cause profound upheaval, thereby threatening the stability of the state. The national interest requires that there be an end to this propensity toward violence and agitation that can in no way contribute to getting to the core of the democratic process, which requires that action be taken simultaneously in regard to the people's mentality and the nation's institutions. The national interest also presupposes a collective effort to promote the republican ideal, with which everyone must be able to identify, in the name of concern for the collective good and the important principle of respect for the rights of others.

Recovering this peace will facilitate getting the electoral process under way. As we well know, this requires much preparation if it is to result in elections, the results of which would really reflect the desires of the majority of the nation's citizens.

That is why our next move will be to draw up a draft decree [projet de decret] creating an independent institution that would be called on to ensure that electoral operations unfold properly throughout Haiti. This draft will be submitted for constructive criticism by the sectors affected in the very near future, with a view to reaching a broader consensus on this matter, which is of vital importance to the nation.

We need an institution that is no longer obliged to cease to exist the day the elected president of the Republic takes the oath of office. We need a solid institution, with

the structures and means necessary not only to hold the elections but also all to carry out the preliminary operations, particularly the registration of the population of voting age.

Regarding an electoral calendar, we think that it is not up to the executive to unilaterally set the dates for holding the elections. Only people technically qualified to do so, well-steeped in the structures and the means available to them with which to carry out the task of holding these elections, can, together with the government, work to establish this electoral calendar. Therefore, we must first create such a truly independent institution, headed by a council of wise men, completely dispassionate—an institution that will be in charge of organizing, first, elections for Casecs [Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections], then municipal, then legislative, and finally presidential elections.

This line of action would allow political parties and their leaders to measure their strength on the national political chessboard. Thus cleared, the road will then lie open for organizing the presidential elections in an atmosphere that should be pretty much serene. We hope that, in this same spirit of dialogue currently in vogue, the different sectors involved will give the executive their suggestions or comments on the points proposed.

Regarding the nation's fundamental charter, we have listened carefully to the positions taken by our compatriots on the reinstatement of the Constitution of 1987. For our part, we feel it contains dispositions that do not fit in with a government that was not elected. Based on the legal principle that nothing may be added, nor taken out of, the Constitution, and taking into account the fact that most of the transitory articles contained in the Constitution of 1987 have lapsed or have been used up, all the military government, over which I have the honor of presiding, can do is to apply itself to administering public affairs in keeping with the spirit of that Constitution and in harmony with the principles consecrated in it.

Once the legislative elections have been held, it will be up to the representatives that the Haitian people will have freely elected to make the changes that may be deemed necessary in the Constitution of 1987.

Nevertheless, no political or social process is viable if it is not based on a healthy economic situation. In this regard, the government intends to play its part fully. A macroeconomic framework intended to increase employment will be set up. At the same time, a policy encouraging investments that create jobs will be applied nationwide. The rehabilitation of public finances and the struggle against contraband and corruption in the public administration will be intensified. Measures to support and encourage production will call forth a positive response from the private sector, to which confidence will thus have been restored, and the private sector will thus participate more in the revival of the economy. The private sector, the driving force of the expansion necessary to rebuild the nation, and labor, the principal lever of business growth, must form a strong and dynamic bloc, in order to, along with the public sector, successfully carry out the difficult task of developing the country.

We point out that this task would be less crushing if our partners, the foreign countries that cooperate with us, could understand that the circumstances that led to adopting economic sanctions against Haiti have changed. This is, in fact, the reason for our having taken the helm of the affairs of state; and as the days go on, each decision we make proves this without a doubt.

Haitian people, in the name of the military government and of the Haitian Armed Forces, we thank you for your trust and your support during the difficult days the country has just traversed. Your calm and your care to not further complicate an already complex situation have been remarkable. In return, we renew to you our solemn commitment to work unceasingly to improve your living conditions and to satisfy your legitimate aspirations.

Let us go forward hand in hand, with a view to the reconstruction of our beloved homeland by means of work carried out in unity and in freedom.

Thank you.

Government Issues Communique on Coup Attempt

FL2410201488 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Last 15 October's aborted coup d'etat is still big news; and what is important is that the Ministry of Interior and National Defense—that is, the government—has issued an official communique on this coup.

This communique says: The Ministry of Interior and National Defense informs that on the evening of Friday, 14 October, an attempted coup d'etat, led by Sergeant Patrick Bochard in connection with former Colonel Samuel Jeremie, was thwarted. In order to cover their criminal act [forfait], the conspirators tried in vain to shift their responsibility by implicating other members of the Armed Forces, among them close collaborators of Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government.

Unmasked in time, the conspirators were apprehended, as were some of their accomplices. Disciplinary measures have been taken against others. (?These) are as follows: Major Pierre H. Cherubin has been discharged; Sub-Lieutenants Pierre Michel Lubin, Richard Salomon, and Joseph Medard and Adjutant Pierre-Louis Faudnesse have been fired.

Concerned for the good name of the Haitian Armed Forces, which have proclaimed before the nation their desire to take action to establish a new, democratic order, the Ministry of Interior and National Defense

wishes to state specifically that not one of the soldiers who participated in the 17 September 1988 movement was involved in any way in this regrettable affair.

We point out that this official version is contested by several political and union organizations that accuse the Avril government of having wanted to stop the 17 September movement by fomenting this business of a coup d'etat. [passage omitted]

Man Lynched for 11 Sep Massacre Involvement

FL2410185088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Yesterday, Sunday, the population in the vicinity of the Grand Rue—more precisely, in La Saline—lynched another of the men who participated in the 11 September St Jean Bosco massacre. On that date, they burned the church and people in it, and they shot and stabbed many people. (Morrison)?

[(Morrison)] Yesterday, Sunday, a certain Jacques Edouard, a detective [attache] who also went along with Franck Romain, was burned in front of St Jean Bosco Church. Following the 17 September coup, Jacques Edouard had gone into hiding, but had returned a few days ago to his home at Delmas 4, where his wife and children live. The population, who were still seeking him, rallied and got him at his home yesterday. Jacques Edouard, a well-built man, did not let himself be taken easily, as had many other detectives in his position. He resisted. He fought a lot before they managed to kill him.

They tied him up and dragged him to the front of St Jean Bosco Church to burn him. Then they went back up past his house with the body.

Montserrat

Minister Osbourne on Independence, Nationhood

FL2510000788 Bridgetown CANA in English 2046 GMT 24 Oct 88

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Plymouth, Montserrat, Oct 24, CANA—One year after the main political parties here publically agreed that a referendum must precede any moves towards political independence, the issue of this tiny British colony breaking with London has surfaced again, with the island's chief minister linking it particularly to the question of nationality.

"I am more aggrieved now that I have discovered that Monserratians have no nationality at all," said Chief Minister John Osbourne during an October radio and television interview.

A long-standing advocate of independence for this 39-square-mile island, Osbourne is known to dislike the fact that Montserrat is the lone non-independent member of the seven-country Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). But this latest public embrace for nationhood follows London's decision not to designate people here as British subjects under the U.K.'s new nationality act.

"I don't think that most Montserratians realise that we are neither Montserratians nor British," Osbourne declared, adding "if you go to England, when you are asked to fill out your immigration form, if you list your nationality as British, the immigration officer will mark it out and put Montserratian."

"You are not a Montserratian because we are not a nation; so right now we don't belong anywhere" Osbourne lamented.

While he has no immediate plans for taking the island into independence, Osbourne has nevertheless urged his compatriots to begin laying the groundwork for nationhood.

The island's chamber of commerce though, like the main opposition group here, the National Development Party (NDP) agrees that much work will have to be done in an effort to get Montserratians to understand the real meaning of independence.

"Montserratians must realise that after the flag raising and the tumult and shouting die down, independence is not judged by how much we can beg. Independence requires discipline, commitment, and hard work by all Montserratians to build the new nation" said the chamber in a statement. "In the meantime, we should be educating and preparing our people so that when independence comes, we may have a mature, responsible and competent public servants and politicians capable of administering the new independent country".

The Montserrat TIMES newspaper, which at one time was closely aligned to the now defunct People's Democratic Party of former Chief Minister Austin Bramble, has also come out in favour of the island moving towards political independence. Under a headline declaring "independence is now a matter of necessity," the paper said that having a passport in which the words "the governor requests in the name of her majesty all whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hinderance" is nothing short of being a farce.

It said Britain's decision to confer on Monserratians the inferior and somewhat dubious status of British dependent territories citizens raised questions about British political morality which thinking people cannot afford to ignore.

"Any illusions of a change in Britain's political morality are clearly shattered by the awesome implications of the Nationality Act, clearly designed to give reality to the 'keep Britain white' slogan ..."

But the chief minister's dream of seeing in his lifetime "our own national flag...our own anthem...is being shattered at least for the time being, by the main opposition Peoples Development Party (PDP) headed by businessman Bertrand Osborne.

In the last general elections, the party made the issue of independence an election theme, and obtained from the ruling Peoples Liberation Movement (PLM), the assurance that any move towards independence would require a referendum. The PDP has thrown cold water on the latest independence fever here, reminding the government that it still remains opposed to any plan to sever ties with Britain.

The PDP for its part says it does not see the need to rush into independence. "We think a lot more can be done in our present stage. We think we can have and get as much aid as we need at the moment," the party stated.

"...At this stage, this is not something we will like for Montserrat " said NDP leader Bertrand Osborne.

The government is pushing the line that with independence, the island would be in a position to pursue further its economic goals.

Both the government and the opposition parties agree that economically the island may not be all that prepared for independence, but the chief minister has pointed to the fact that a number of Caricom states have attained their independence without too much in the way of economic prosperity.

"What we are seeking to attain in the first instance is political independence," said the chief minister, whose country according to the St Kitts-based Eastern Caribbean Central Bank had 1987 economic growth exceeding the 5.2 percent in 1986.

At their 1988 annual general meeting the Montserrat Chamber of Commerce spoke highly of the island's economic performance. "The economy appears quite buoyant with a great deal of money in circulation," the chamber said, but the businessmen are not anxious to see the island become independent.

Britain's Foreign Office junior minister responsible for the Caribbean, Timothy Eggar, is due in Montserrat in November, and the government is hoping to bring up the issue during his visit.

But Chief Minister Osborne has at the same time indicated that he is aware the question may not be one the British official wishes to discuss.

Trinidad and Tobago

Foreign Reserves Ran Out 'July of This Year'

FL2410213288 Bridgetown CANA in English 2222 GMT Oct 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Oct 22, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago ran out of foreign exchange reserves in July of this year, according to the latest Central Bank statistical digest.

The September digest showed that this country's net foreign reserves fell from TT100.1 million dollars (one TT dollar:23.5 U.S. cents) in June of this year to -75.4 million dollars the following month. The provisional figure for August was -220.2 million dollars.

This means that the country had no reserves to fall back on—at any level.

The business community had been calling for announcement of a system to release foreign exchange predicting closures caused by the uncertainty of getting exchange.

Government last week promised a statement in the near future from Central Bank Governor William Demas on the liberalising of the exchange system.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson announced the start of negotiations to refinance the public debt, find sources of development funding, and to attract private investment. He said that, for the rest of the year, government was negotiating to raise just over TT one billion dollars to the end of the year from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and for debt refinancing.

For the 1988 to 1992 period, Trinidad and Tobago hopes to drum up over TT7 billion dollars in investment and balance of payments support, Robinson said on Tuesday.

The first indication of the country's fall to rock bottom in reserves was in the June 1988 Central Bank quarterly report which indicated that payments of TT394.1 million dollars in foreign exchange to service central government's mid-year debt left 72.5 million dollars of foreign exchange in the country's coffers at the end of June. This was the lowest level for fourteen and a half years.

The overall foreign exchange picture outlined in the September 1988 digest shows that Central Bank and IMF reserve tranche foreign reserve funds have also been running out.

Following a decision to draw down on reserve tranche funds at the IMF, Trinidad and Tobago moved from a position of TT261.6 million dollars in its reserve tranche at the end of 1987 to 80.9 million dollars by May. By June, the tables show no funds were left in the IMF tranche.

Central Bank's foreign reserves fell from TT183.1 million dollars in May to a figure of -9.8 million dollars in June. This Central Bank reserve figure picture fell further to the provisional figure of -327.5 million dollars in August.

Only government's foreign exchange balances remained fairly constant during the year at a figure of an average of some 75 million dollars.

Commercial banks moved from a negative position for the whole of 1987 picking up to net foreign reserves of 23.5 million dollars at the start of this year.

Commercial banks' foreign reserves generally rose throughout this year only to fall below the zero line to -15.3 million dollars in July. However, the provisional figure for August shows 31.1 million dollars of foreign reserves still left with commercial lbanks.

Although the digest points to the revaluation of the foreign reserves to account for the December 1985 devaluation, it does not deal with the August 16 devaluation.

Moratorium Given During Debt Restructuring Talks
FL2410212988 Bridgetown CANA in English
1710 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Oct 24, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago says it has been granted a moratorium whilst it seeks to refinance its foreign debt and expects current negotiations with international financial institutions to be completed in a few months' time. "Negotiations with international financial insitutions have begun and all the signs point to a favourable outcome," Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson told the annual conference of his ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) Sunday.

Discussions with "agent bankers for restructuring our external debt are well under way," he said, adding: "We have won acceptance from our creditor banks for restructuring of the foreign debt. We have received a moratorium on repayments while the discussions proceed, and agreement on a refinancing package is confidently expected within the next few months." "We have obtained assurances of the support from the principal governments involved in the Paris Club arrangements for the restructuring of the official debt."

The U.S.1.8 billion dollar debt is bunched up for repayment over the next three years at a time when foreign reserves are at their lowest, falling below zero last July.

Two economists from an advisory committee of international banks arrived in Port-of-Spain at the weekend to look into Trinidad and Tobago's application for debt restructuring.

In outlining some economic plans by his 22-month administration, Robinson said a package of taxation reform would begin next year and be in place by 1990. This package will include the lowering of individual and corporate tax rates and a shift to consumption tax.

Robinson said a special committee of the consultatory National Planning Commission (NPC) had been set up to put together measures to ensure the widest involvement of all sections of the society in business. "We intend to do away forever with the myth so mischieviously fostered, with such damaging consequences in Trinidad, that black people don't have a head for business," Robinson said.

Robinson Accuses Groups of Divisive Politics
FL2410165488 Bridgetown CANA in English
1654 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Oct 23, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, faced with a split in his near two year-old government, has accused his political foes and trade union critics of promoting divisive politics here.

In a 40-minute speech to the annual conference of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), Robinson dealt at length with one of his former deputy NAR leaders, Basdeo Panday, who was expelled from the party last month and engineered a move to form a breakaway political party last Sunday.

Since the decision to form a new party, the Tapia Group, a NAR founder-member, has left the NAR while most of the expelled or suspended NAR members have thrown their support behind Panday.

"I sincerely regret that all who were with us then are not with us today," Robinson said. "But that does not make our commitment any the less binding or our faith any the less strong. The very composition of the conference here today is witness to that faith."

Robinson called on journalists covering the conference to look at the mult-ethnic composition of the 5,000-odd delegates attending the day-long meeting. "It demonstrates beyond the shadow of a doubt that the National Alliance for Reconstruction remains the party of the future, the only truly national party, the party of hope, the party of youth, the party that must lead this country into the twenty-first century," Robinson said in a speech punctuated by cheers, laughter, and standing ovations.

Thanking party members for remaining firm when they were being "shot at from all sides," Robinson accused some members of "copping out" when times got hard. In

apparent reference to Panday's public meeting last week which attracted mainly an Indian audience, Robinson warned of the dangers of Trinidad and Tobago returning to the racially-divided politics of the 1950's in which the country's almost equally-divided African and Indian population supported separate parties.

"Recent political developments have made the nation's choices very clear. We are seeing before our very eyes the attempt to resurrect the old PDP/DLP-style of the politics, the politics of the late Bhadase Saggan Maharaj, led by those who have lost the faith, who have regressed—and who would like the whole nation to regress with them," Robinson said.

"For them it is "backward ever, forward never," the Trinidad leader said. "The choice before the nation is very clear ... going forward or turning back. But there is no turning back; there can be no turning." Robinson said. "Attempts to divide the nation along lines of race, religion or class are doomed to failure from the very start," Robinson said.

Touching on the issue of reconciliation which the private sector had suggested Robinson consider, he promised to hold talks on governmental issues in the future with whoever emerged as opposition leader.

Panday, in opposition, is likely to control more seats than the former ruling and now official opposition People's National Movement (PNM).

"Let me make it absolutely clear that I, as prime minister, will not allow any substantial section of the national community to be sidelined or marginalised. That is out of the question," the prime minister remarked.

"I deeply appreciate the qualities demonstrated by our Indian brothers and sisters, qualities of courage, fortitude and thrift and commitment to family life."

"Qualities such as those will save our nation during our present period of economic stress. In the NAR, we encourage these attitudes among all our members and, indeed, in all the people of our nation, regardless of race, creed or occupation," the prime minister said.

Robinson criticised trade union critics, including the militant Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU), which have been calling for the formation of a workers' political party and depicting squabbling within the NAR as a problem of middle class politicians.

Stating that he would still want talks with the OWTU-controlled trade umbrella Council of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU), Robinson said people needed to understand the realities of the world today.

"I call upon all loyal sons and daughters of Trinidad and Tobago. Do not allow political adventures to turn Trinidad and Tobago into another Grenada," he told flag-waving, cheering NAR members.

The NAR was formed in February 1986 and came to power in the country's first change of government in thirty years in December of that year. Robinson described the path of his ruling party following its split as its "second phase of struggle."

No Reconciling With Dissidents

FL2410155088 Bridgetown CANA in English 2321 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Oct 23, CANA—The annual conference of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) on Sunday ruled out a reconciliation of differences with dissident politicians and threw its support behind Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson.

In a day-long meeting which officialy approved the expulsion of three former ministers, including one-time party deputy leader, Basdeo Panday, the party rejected a reconciliation motion put forward by two government ministers. The resolution was booed and shouted down as Food Production Minister Lincoln Myers and Education Minister Senator Clive Pantin, sought the establishment of a committee to study their proposal.

Following this, elections saw leader, Prime Minister Robinson, re-elected unopposed in the two-year post. He re-nominated Lawyer Karl Hudson-Phillips as his other deputy but asked for time to consult and discuss who would fill Panday's post.

Panday and his supporters were kicked out of the party following their public criticism of Robinson and the government's economic and other policies.

"Some cannot be playing cricket while others are playing football," Robinson said in his closing remarks. He added that the democratic process could only work against a background of constitutionality. "No man is above the law," he said.

One resolution called on Hudson-Phillips, a founder-member who has stayed on the sidelines of NAR policy since December 1986 elections, to play a more active role. In a response to this motion, Hudson-Phillips said he had no hidden agenda in staying quiet and urged support for Robinson.

Hudson-Phillips called on Robinson to live up to his middle name—Napoleon—and lead the party and the country with a firm will. He added that Robinson would have the party behind him.

Panday and a group of supporters have announced their decision to form a new party. The breakaway move has raised the possibility of Panday's group taking over as the official opposition from the People's National Movement, headed by Patrick Manning, which has three seats in Parliament.

Panday Reacts To Expulsion

FL2410225488 Bridgetown CANA in English 2004 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Oct 24, CANA—Expelled former National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) deputy political leader, Basdeo Panday, has refuted allegations of making race a divisive issue in Trinidad and Tobago's politics. Speaking in an interview with CANA on Monday following his official expulsion from the ruling NAR Sunday, Panday accused Prime Minister Robinson of bringing race onto the scene following a split between the two founders in the party.

"Robinson is stil living in the 1950's when he belonged to the PNM (People's National Movement)...he is trying to recreate the PNM and he is paranoid about another DLP," Panday said.

Robinson accused Panday of taking the politics of the country back to the times when political parties here represented the spearate interests of the country's mainly African and Indian races.

Addressing the party convention Sunday which formally expelled Panday and his supporters, Robinson had accused them of trying to form another Indian-based democratic Labour Party (DLP). He said Trinidad and Tobago had passed that stage.

"Mr Robinson is the one who has gone back to the 1960 syndrome so he cannot see any other politicians but himself and a Bhadase Maharaj (trade union leader within the DLP), his contemporary," Panday remarked.

Panday supporters agreed on October 16 to establish a new political party. Panday told CANA discussions to form the party, yet to be named, should be completed by year-end.

"I am dealing with citizens...you form a party and those who wish to join it, join it, regardless of race and colour," Panday said in response to a question on the largely Indian audience he attracted at his October 16 meeting.

Panday also claimed that what was left in the NAR was not even the two remainining parties following the exit of most members of his own United Labour front (ULF) and the Tapia group. He said that Robinson's Democratic Action Congress (DAC) remained and the Organisation of National Reconstruction (ONR) of the other deputy NAR leader, Karl Hudson-Phillips had lost most of its support. He described the third NAR annual conference as involving "merely a group of people".

On Robinson's statement that reconciliation was still on the cards for those who wished to play by the same rules and regulations, Panday said "we always have been and still are for reconciliation...the ball is not in our court."

The NAR was formed in February 1986 from a merger of Panday's ULF with its central Trinidad, sugar, and Indian population support, the Tobago-based Democratic Action Congress (DAC) of A.N.R. Robinson, the Tapia Group, and the business community, east-west corridor support of the ONR.

President Departs for Uruguay, Cuba
PA2410042088 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Report by Raul Sanchez Carrillo]

[Text] President Miguel de la Madrid and his entourage left from the presidential airport hangar this morning for visits to Uruguay and Cuba, which are the Mexican president's final official visits to foreign countries. At 0900 sharp, President de la Madrid and his wife, Paloma Cordero de la Madrid, arrived at the presidential airport hangar.

Representatives from the Independent Peasants Central Organization were the first to bid the Mexican president and his wife farewell. The next to pay their respects were: Confederation of Mexican Workers leader Fidel Velasquez, PRI Secretary General Manuel Camacho Solis, Senate President Nezahualcoyotl de la Vega, PRI National President Jorge de la Vega Dominguez, and Dr Sergio Garcia Ramirez and other advisers.

The Mexican president received their respects while standing under a pavilion with red carpeting. His small entourage comprises his wife; his private secretary, Emilio Gamboa Patron; Manuel Alonso Munoz, the presidential communications and public relations director; and the foreign relations, finance and public credit, commerce and industrial development, and education secretaries.

Shortly after the national anthem was played at 0904, the Boeing aircraft taxied to the runway, and 7 minutes later, the plane left for Uruguay, where the Mexican president will participate in the Group of Eight meeting.

12 Tons of Disaster Aid Sent to Nicaragua
PA2510042588 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The international community has begun sending aid to those left homeless by Hurricane Joan in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The Mexican Government today sent to Nicaragua an Air Force plane carrying 12 tons of food and medicine.

Pemex Reports Increase in Projected Revenues
PA2110190388 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 15 Oct 88 p 47

[Text] As of the end of August, the income of the state-run oil company Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) had out-stripped projected revenues for the first eight months of the year, according to a company press release.

Pemex collected revenues of 28.954 trillion pesos through the end of August. That figure was some 289 billion above budget projections.

Some 9.844 trillion pesos of the company's income for the period came from exports and 8.975 trillion pesos of the revenue resulted from Mexican sales, Pemex said.

The company earned 6.37 trillion pesos from value added tax and other special taxes, the company said.

The company's expenditures for the period were more than 28.925 trillion pesos.

Pemex Workers Claim $49-Million Fraud
PA2210004188 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] The Pemex Labor Union announced before the Mexican Chamber of Deputies that Pemex has been defrauded of approximately $49 million. According to the Pemex workers' accusation, the fraud involved renting two nonexistent oil tankers and a loan to a local bank for the purchase of ships from a Yugoslav company. The Chamber of Deputies formed a commission of 23 legislators to investigate the public and private institutions and the people implicated in the fraud.

Cardenas Summons Meeting To Form New Party
PA2310130788 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Report by Daniel Flores Meneses]

[Text] Former Mexican presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas today called a meeting to create a new political party. Groups composing the National Democratic Front unanimously endorsed the decision.

[Begin Cardenas recording] The national convention will approve our party's definitive name. However, it is advisable to conduct all the organizational work under one name. Allow me to propose we set out the task of building a party that will tentatively be called the Party of the Democratic Revolution [Partido de la Revolucion Democratica]. [end recording]

The convention to create the new political organization and decide on its final name will be held 5 February. The new party's organization and promotion comission was set up today. The commission comprises: Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, (Adolfo Gilli), Porfirio Munoz Ledo, (Efigenia Martinez), Rosario Wences Reza, (Luis Villoro), Heberto Castillo, (Odol Madariaga), Arnoldo Martinez Verdugo, (Cesar Buenrostro), (Saul Escobar), and others. Cardenas read a 19-page document detailing the objectives of the new party. The (Green Party), the (Mexican Workers and Peasants Congress), Liberal Party, Movement Toward Socialism, (Neighborhoods Assembly), (National Cardenist Council), and many more joined it.

The Social Democratic Party, the Popular Socialist Party, and the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction decided to retain their current status. The Mexican Socialist Party will join the new party. Its dissolution will

be decided on in upcoming congress. The Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution will consult with its members whether or not it will join.

Police Discover Huge Marijuana Plantation
PA2410181688 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 20 Oct 88 p 12

[Summary] The Mexican Attorney General's Office reported yesterday that the Mexican Judicial Police have discovered 100 square km planted with marijuana in Rio Grande Municipality, Zacatecas State. The source added that the Mexican police already have begun destroying the plantation.

Navy Assesses 6-Year Drug-Trafficking Struggle
PA2410205288 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 20 Oct 88 p 6

[Summary] Mexican Navy Secretary Admiral Miguel Angel Gomez Ortega has said that during the last 6 years, the Mexican Navy destroyed 4,292,781 kg of marijuana and burnt 4,581,348 marijuana plants and 1,135 kg of cocaine. Gomez also said that during the same period, Mexican authorities arrested 715 drug traffickers and confiscated 260 vehicles, 39 ships, and 5 planes used for drug- trafficking activities.

Costa Rica

Arias Comments on Trade, Foreign Debt

PA2210154988 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 16 Oct 88 p 2

[Excerpt] Upon receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Oviedo, Spain, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez said the industrialized nations had shielded themselves from Third World imports by imposing arbitrary trade regulations, thus creating a protective wall. These norms, he added, are at odds with the industrialized nations' policies of free trade with poorer countries.

Arias Sanchez was also awarded the Prince of Asturias Prize for Ibero-American Cooperation for his efforts to achieve peace in Central America. The ceremony took place at the Campoamor Theater in Oviedo. In his acceptance speech, Arias said "we are treated unfairly for trying to obtain the financial resources and materials we need for development. This unfair treatment must stop at once."

The 1987 Nobel Peace Prize recipient added that "we justly demand to have fair competition in the prices of our exports, the management of our foreign debt, and the transfer of capital and technology."

Arias proposed a profound change in trade relations and the solidarity of wealthy nations as mechanisms against high interest rates, social inequalities, and unjust conditions in international trade.

For Arias, underdevelopment, social injustice, dogmatism, intolerance, the thirst for power, and the vices of servitude all pose a threat to peace and are a source of shame for humanity.

Arias emphasized that democracy had reappeared in Latin America, adding that the budding democracies in the region are not only threatened by domestic subversion. According to Arias, these nations are also threatened by creditors who impose difficult conditions and are solely interested in recovering their investment.

Arias said "the payment of the debt must adjust to allow the growth of our economies. This is imperative if we want this political system that we have always yearned for to survive." Misery, Arias added, can foster dictatorships and totalitarianism. [passage omitted]

Government Thanks Panama for Hurricane Relief

PA2410191688 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Costa Rican authorities have expressed appreciation for Panama's support in evacuating the homeless. At a news conference held this morning in San Jose, Public Security Minister Hernan Garron expressed his appreciation for the valuable support rendered by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. A Panamanian Air Force twin-turbine helicopter was used to evacuate and airlift the homeless people from Corredores Canton. Minister Garron explained that the Costa Rican vice president had requested the Panamanian Government's support, which was immediate and which contributed effectively in aiding the people left homeless by Hurricane Joan, which swept across that sister Central American nation. This action by the FDP once again demonstrates the solidarity of the Panamanian Government and its Army with the Costa Rican brothers in moments of natural disasters.

El Salvador

FMLN Commanders Meeting With L.A. Presidents

PA2410192088 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2000 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Words indistinct] an FMLN high-ranking delegation will meet with several South American presidents.

After his meeting with FMLN Commanders Joaquin Villalobos and Leonel Gonzalez, Peruvian President Alan Garcia said he will present a proposal to promote a solution to the Salvadoran conflict. During their tour through South America, the members of the FMLN General Command will also meet with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and will then depart for Mexico before meeting with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

In each of these meetings, the FMLN commanders will present the FMLN proposal for the solution to the Salvadoran conflict. [passage omitted]

Meet With Arias

PA2510024588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0053 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] San Jose, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Two FMLN leaders said today in Costa Rica that the Salvadoran guerrilla organization has launched a diplomatic offensive abroad to take advantage of new conditions prevailing in El Salvador and to further its objective of holding a dialogue "without conditions" with Jose Napoleon Duarte's government.

FMLN General Command leaders Joaquin Villalobos and Leonel Gonzalez explained that new conditions in El Salvador are evident in the weakened Army, the deteriorated state of the national economy, and the division within the ruling Christian Democratic Party.

Villalobos, Gonzalez, Ana Guadalupe Martinez, and Salvador Samayoa comprise the FMLN political-diplomatic delegation that today held a 3-hour meeting with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who is trying to arrange a new round of talks between the rebels and President Duarte;

Commander Villalobos told ACAN-EFE that the meeting allowed them to exchange views and to try to "bring about compromise regarding certain positions," but he provided no details of the discussion with Arias.

Villalobos said that the "weakening" of the Salvadoran Army and Government creates conditions which allow the struggle "to change course." This includes strengthening political relations with governments on the subcontinent. However, Villalobos denied that the "new phase" is caused by a weakening of the rebel struggle.

The guerrilla delegation, which recently met with Peruvian President Alan Garcia, Argentine Foreign Ministry officials, and Costa Rican Foreign Ministry officials, has scheduled a trip to Ecuador, where they will be welcomed by Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja.

According to Villalobos, they will also seek a meeting with San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas to examine the results of the national dialogue sponsored by the Salvadoran Catholic Church at the end of August, a meeting in which the FMLN did not participate.

Gonzalez said at a news conference after the meeting with Arias that talks with Duarte's government should be "free of conditions," but he added that the Salvadoran president has always said that the rebels must lay down their weapons before these negotiations can be held. "This position," Villalobos said, "is not shared by anyone in El Salvador."

Villalobos, top leader of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), one of the five groups that comprise the FMLN, said that the war—which in 8 years has left more than 60,000 dead—is becoming more "entrenched," but he added that the possibility of resuming the talks suspended in October 1987 has not been dismissed.

"As long as the causes of the war are not eliminated and a dialogue is made impossible, the war will continue," the rebel leader asserted, adding that the direction of the war "is being modified" in favor of the guerrillas. "The outcome of the struggle is in favor of the guerrillas," he said.

Foreign Minister Comments

PA2510030888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0043 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo said today that the Salvadoran Government insists that to achieve peace in this country by political means, the guerrillas must lay down their weapons.

The minister provided comments to ACAN-EFE regarding the meeting held today in San Jose between Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and FMLN guerrilla leaders Leonel Gonzalez and Joaquin Villalobos. Gonzalez and Villalobos are on a Latin American tour to promote a political solution to the Salvadoran civil war, which has left more than 60,000 dead in 8 years.

Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte has said on numerous occasions that he will talk with the FMLN to end the conflict provided that the rebels renounce violence as a means of attaining power.

Acevedo told ACAN-EFE that "at no time" does the meeting between Arias and the guerrilla commanders legitimize the FMLN, which, he said, "is internationally regarded as illegitimate because of its unwillingness to renounce violence." The foreign minister added: "I imagine that within the framework of Esquipulas II (the regional peace agreement), President Arias will have insisted that the guerrillas take part in the democratic process."

Acevedo said that the FMLN "cannot take part" in the 18th OAS meeting to be held in San Salvador in mid-November. He believes that the guerrilla leaders' Latin American tour, which has led them to meet with Arias today and with Peruvian President Alan Garcia a week ago, is a ploy "to find a place" at the OAS General Assembly. [passage omitted]

Blandon on Elections, New Guerrillas Group

PA2110150488 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Report on interview with General Adolfo Blandon, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] General Adolfo Blandon, chairman of the Salvadoran Armed Forces' joint chiefs of staff, has said the major political parties, which have been accusing each other in the past few precampaign weeks, are only helping the Democratic Convergence. He added that this could have a bearing on the upcoming presidential election. Gen Blandon called for the establishment of a common political front to weaken the leftist parties' chances.

[Blandon] "The only ones benefiting from this are leftist parties, and this could jeopardize the outcome of the upcoming presidential election. I believe that instead of accusing each other of improper actions, all democratic-leaning political forces should unite and establish a common front to really challenge the leftist parties' aspirations.

"ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] accusing the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] or vice versa yields no positive results. They should become involved in a noble campaign to allow the people to freely chose their best option, who they want to govern for the next 5 years."

Gen Blandon said divisions that were apparent a few days ago within the Armed Forces have been overcome.

[Blandon] "There were certain divisive elements within the Armed Forces. However, we have professionally and efficiently curbed them and prevented them from becoming a conflict within the Armed Forces. There have been some differences, but we have been able to neutralize them. I must say very frankly that we are now perhaps more united than ever."

During the interview, the top military leader commented on the appearance of a new guerrilla cell called the Manuel Jose Arce Command. He said this is another military strategy of the FMLN.

[Blandon] "I would not call it a cell but a leftist death squad. I understand they circulated a communique in which they apparently try to disassociate themselves from FMLN actions. However, they are actually part of the ERP [People's Revolutionary Army] structure and are carrying out missions as part of a plan that the FMLN is trying to implement to boycott the upcoming elections."

In commenting on trips by some guerrilla commanders to South America, Blandon said these trips reflect division and internal, political, and military problems within the FMLN. He added that this is another effort to gain some international support that will help the FMLN reunite.

CD Denounces Allegations on Recent Attacks

PA2310005788 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] The Democratic Convergence [CD] today denied any participation in the wave of terrorist attacks perpetrated in San Salvador over the past few days.

In a communique, the CD expressed surprise and disgust over statements made by Generals Rafael Bustillo and Adolfo Blandon regarding recent terrorist actions and disputes within rightist organizations.

The fact that this coalition is being mentioned in a malicious way in an attempt to link it to recent incidents is despicable, the document said. We vehemently deny these unfounded accusations against the CD, which seem to be aimed at justifying repression against its leaders and followers, as well as actions against its offices, the communique stressed.

FMLN Raids Ilobasco, Releases 131 Inmates

PA2310202488 Paris AFP in Spanish 1701 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Oct (AFP)—Salvadoran guerrillas released 131 prisoners this morning after attacking Army positions in Ilobasco, in the central department of Cabanas, 55 km northeast of San Salvador.

Coprefa reported FMLN rebels staged the attack at 0135 (0735 GMT) today and partially destroyed the prison located on the outskirts of the city.

During their raid on Ilobasco, the guerrillas attacked National Police positions guarding the region of more than 10,000 inhabitants. According to the official report, there were no casualties.

Prison Major Carlos Rodriguez confirmed there were three women among the prisoners released. They were serving sentences up to 30 years for common crimes.

On 19 October, the FMLN opened the doors of the Santiago de Maria prison in the eastern department of Usulutan, allowing 52 prisoners to escape.

Military positions in Tejutepeque and San Jose were harassed today in Cabanas Department, but there were no reports of casualties.

FMLN on Operation

PA2310222088 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2054 GMt 23 Oct 88

["Military action report No 1" issued by the FMLN Joint Command in Cinquera, Cabanas Department, on 23 October]

[Text] On 23 October at 0130, FMLN guerrillas and clandestine militia units carried out a successful regional operation called "Death to the Murderers of Our People; Punishment for Murderers and for Those Who Sell the Fatherland," which consisted of the following:

1. The forcible removal of the criminal civil defense from San Jose Oratorio canton in Ilobasco, which was under our control for 2 hours. We are awaiting confirmation of the number of casualties inflicted in San Jose Oratorio canton;

2. The artillery attack against the National Guard in Tejutepeque, Cabanas Department, during which we inflicted 3 casualties;

3. The control of the highway between San Rafael Cedros and Ilobasco for 3 hours, during which the terrified Duartist forces did not show up;

4. The clandestine militia units knocked down 2 electricity towers supporting the power line running from the 5 November Dam to the (Asachin) substation, in Agua Zarca canton;

5. The clandestine militia units knocked down two more electricity towers supporting the Cerron Grande-(Asachin) power line at Cerro Colorado;

6. The resounding 2-hour attack against a National Police outpost in Ilobasco. Beginning at 0130, our forces seized control of part of the city, disseminating propaganda and seizing control of the Ilobasco Penitentiary, during which 131 prisoners were released.

In a later report, we will announce the number of casualties sustained by the enemy, the amount of materiel recovered, and further details on this new popular victory on the road to our final liberation. Revolution or death, we will win!

[Signed] FMLN Joint Command
Cinquera, Cabanas Department
23 October 1988

Col Vargas on Attacks

PA2510041488 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Interview with Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, Armed Forces chief of operations, by unidentified reporter on 24 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Colonel, another penitentiary was attacked yesterday and many common criminals as well as some political prisoners were released. The attack seems to indicate that penitentiaries are now the target of rebel attacks. What is the Armed Forces view on the two attacks, which were perpetrated within almost a week of one another?

[Vargas] I believe that we must consider what this means. First, the attacks are aimed against penitentiaries because they are not normally well defended. Second, the FMLN fully identifies with its dear friends, the common criminals.

The FMLN identifies with the killers, thieves, and criminals who comprise its forces. These people are persecuted by the law and they find a haven in the FMLN, thus proving that the FMLN is composed of thieves, murderers, thugs, and killers. Those are the people who really comprise the FMLN, simply because they have nowhere else to go.

We are taking the necessary measures to prevent these actions and to support the authorities who are in charge of these cases.

Vides on FMLN 'Minor Attacks,' OAS Meeting

PA2510005488 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Report by Elmer Gomez on interview with Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova—date and place not given]

[Text] [Gomez] Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova yesterday minimized the FMLN guerrilla attacks on Ilobasco and Tejutepeque, where the rebels released 131 prisoners, including three women who were serving sentences for common crimes.

[Begin recording] [Vides] Those were minor attacks and no major damage has been caused in the latest attacks. The Armed Forces' reaction has been adequate and our searches of the area have confirmed that the terrorists sustained more dead and wounded than what they may have inflicted on us.

[Gomez] General, the FMLN released several prisoners and attacked several penitentiaries throughout our country. What do you think about this?

[Vides] I said that whoever knows our prisons realizes that they are not secure. All you have to do is open a couple of holes and all the prisoners could escape. Our security measures involve only human resources, meaning the guards. In any case, we prefer to let the people leave than to stop them by opening fire, because this could have dire consequences. I believe you have seen similar cases in other countries. Remember what happened in a Peruvian jail, where the consequences were more terrible than the actual breakout of inmates. I believe that this action will prove negative for the FMLN because Salvadoran society will have to withstand more thieves, murderers, etc. in the streets. Right? We will work to recapture the prisoners so that they serve their sentences.

[Gomez] General, what measures will the Armed forces take given the urban commando attacks in the capital?

[Vides] We will increase our security measures and step up patrol activities to prevent terrorist attacks in urban areas. We are also analyzing the possibility of coordinating all these measures with the security personnel working in various agencies so that we get information in a timely manner. We must work in coordination with the security agencies, which will report any irregular action. I would like to report that several car bombs have been defused in recent days thanks to the timely reports received from citizens. Two car bombs were defused the same day that one exploded at a local hamburger restaurant.

Likewise, we are currently deploying more vehicles and relief troops to help evacuate the people from areas that may be affected by the hurricane.

[Gomez] What security measures are being implemented for the 18th OAS meeting scheduled for November?

[Vides] We have prepared a security plan for the OAS meeting. I cannot give you details about the measures, but I can assure you that measures have been taken. Additional men will be brought in to provide the necessary protection, but we believe that the rebels have stepped up their actions in San Salvador to sabotage the OAS meeting in our country. [end recording]

[Gomez] Referring to another topic, the defense minister said the guerrilla organization's request to participate in the 18th OAS meeting, to be held in San Salvador in November, calls for a political decision. He does not believe the guerrilla organizations will be allowed to participate in the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Vides] I believe that this calls for a political decision. I do not believe that they will be allowed to participate. The guerrilla organizations want to participate in these meeting to issue a statement, but I believe they have people who are active in politics now who could very well do this for them. These people have been granted enough time on television and radio, etc., and they are freely carrying out a political campaign, so I do not believe they should be given more time. If a political decision is made in their favor, however, we will analyze and respect the measure.

[Gomez] There are unofficial reports that the FMLN has launched a diplomatic offensive at the Latin American level concerning the upcoming foreign ministers meeting in El Salvador. What is the Armed Forces opinion on this?

[Vides] We have information that two so-called commanders of the terrorists are on a tour, but that is another sign of weakness. They talk a lot about sovereignty and this and that, but they still have to ask other countries to solve their problems. I believe that they will continue with the tour and visit several countries, but this will not change anything. [end recording]

[Gomez] Referring to another topic, Gen Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova said no students will be recruited during their vacation because the Armed Forces have maintained a fixed quota of soldiers on their payroll for the last 3 years—even though the law says that the Army can recruit men anywhere. He added that the Armed Forces drafted a recruitment law that states that Salvadorans who are 18 years of age or older must be drafted for military service. Gen Vides Casanova also denied that the Army recruits students in the schools.

Vides Reports on Plan To Prevent Terrorism

PA2310185988 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Report by Regina Canas; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova announced today that the Armed Forces have a plan to prevent terrorist attacks in the capital.

[Vides] "We are going to make extra efforts to guarantee the greatest degree of security to citizens, although it is not possible to cover everything. We must be honest in this regard."

According to the defense minister, recent bombings in the capital have hurt the FMLN because they have struck nonmilitary targets and directly harmed civilians.

Gen Vides Casanova said various state security organizations are on the alert in view of the attacks and that special plans have been drafted to protect citizens from events such as the one that took place on 16 October.

[Vides] "We have to carry out more patrols, locate strategic observation points, and coordinate surveillance in various places. Of course, it would be almost impossible for us to detect a car bomb. We would have to search all vehicles and in the long run this would do more harm than good. We must maintain contact with the public to receive information. Recently many car bombs have been defused because people have alerted us. We are going to improve on this."

Vides Casanova said the Manuel Jose Arce Command is part of the FMLN and of the FMLN's "Fire" operation. The general said announcing a new military group is merely their strategy for continuing sabotage operations while talking about dialogue for peace.

[Vides] "They say it is an unknown organization not controlled by them, yet it commits the same crimes the FMLN commits all the time. This is a ploy to participate in future peace talks. One organization is carrying out criminal actions claiming it is separate from the FMLN, but the truth is they are the same thing."

Regarding the FMLN commanders' tour through South America and their upcoming meeting with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Gen Vides Casanova said the rebels will not be able to discredit the way the Salvadoran military is conducting the war.

Army Chief Describes Antiterrorist Operation

PA2510045088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Report by Regina Canas]

[Text] Army troops and security personnel today began the metropolitan security operation for countering terrorist attacks, Colonel [Mauricio Ernesto] Vargas [chief of operations of the Armed Forces Staff], reported. The Army chief said the operation, which is being mounted because of an increasing number of dynamite attacks, will last 6 months.

[Begin Vargas recording] The operation to restore citizen tranquillity and organizational stability, which is a constitutional obligation of the Armed Forces, began today. [end recording]

Col Mauricio Ernesto Vargas said that the metropolitan security operation will involve some 12,000 troops covering four specific areas to offer city dwellers security.

[Begin Vargas recording] This is part of a comprehensive, ongoing security operation, the focus of which is support for the coffee harvest and protection of coffee storage areas. Offensive operations are being carried out in certain areas where terrorists are known to be operating—specifically in the San Salvador Volcano area. Permanent operations are ongoing in the capital.

We estimate that the overall security operation will entail the use of some 8,000 [as heard] men. In specific terms, I do not think there will be more than 2,500 men on duty at any given moment. If we need to increase the number of troops, then we will simply have to do so, since we answer to the citizens of this country. [end recording]

Col Vargas said this operation will also involve tracking down stolen cars, patrolling large shopping centers, and monitoring crime suspects, without these duties altering the normal work of the Armed Forces.

Army Suffers 24 Casualties in 20 Oct Actions

PA2310125988 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 22 October carries several military reports lasting approximately 15 minutes on recent FMLN actions.

The first report, from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front, states that "at 1500 on 20 October, an FMLN guerrilla unit successfully ambushed a military truck on the Pan-American Highway in San Vicente jurisdiction, inflicting 12 casualties: four dead, eight wounded."

Further reports note that "at 1500 on 20 October, FMLN guerrillas placed mines in the path of troops of San Carlos Battalion of the 1st Infantry Brigade, which was patrolling Ramos Hill, Guazapa jurisdiction. The action resulted in three dead and one wounded, all evacuated by two helicopters."

The station then reports that "on 20 October, FMLN guerrillas clashed with Army troops from 0800 to 1300 between El Matazano and Las Penas farms, inflicting eight casualties on the enemy—two dead, six wounded—two of which were caused by mines and four by rifle fire." The announcer adds that "the enemy requested support from a UH-1H helicopter gunship, an O-2 light aircraft, and an A-37 plane, which fired ineffectively at our units."

19, 21 Oct Actions

PA2410125488 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 2000 GMT on 23 October carries several military reports lasting approximately 7 minutes on recent FMLN actions:

The first report indicates that on 19 October, an FMLN booby trap on the road near San Jose Las Flores, Chalatenango Department, inflicted four casualties on Military Detachment No 1. The reports adds: "That same day, our forces attacked enemy positions at the (Guancara River), inflicting one more casualty to soldiers from the same military detachment.

"On 21 October at 1030, an FMLN guerrilla unit clashed with enemy units going toward El Amatillo, Las Vueltas jurisdiction. During this clash, our men inflicted two casualties on the Chalatenanago Military Detachment No 2; a sergeant was wounded and a radio operator was killed. After combat ended, one UH-1N helicopter gunship, one O-2 plane, one A-37 Dragonfly attack jet, and one UH-1H Huey helicopter began indiscriminate bombing of the densely populated Las Vueltas area."

FMLN Leader: 30,000 Army Casualties in War

PA2310203788 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] According to the FMLN General Command in El Salvador, the strength and scope of the guerrillas' current military actions in the country's 14 departments is shattering U.S. counterinsurgency strategy.

In a report released to the Havana press, FMLN Commander Joaquin Villalobos said El Salvador, in its 8th year of war, is on the brink of social rebellion. He added that the FMLN is on its way to victory because it has resorted to all possible forms of combat.

According to Villalobos, a member of the FMLN General Command, the guerrillas have inflicted over 30,000 casualties on the Salvadoran regime's Army over the past 8 years. This figure, he added, is twice the number of soldiers in the Army at the beginning of the war. Furthermore, Villalobos said, the FMLN has seized and captured some 10,000 weapons and 2,000 soldiers, including the deputy defense minister.

Finally, Villalobos stated that thanks to the urban militia and guerrillas, the war has spread to El Salvador's most important cities, while Napoleon Duarte's government is undergoing a process of decay and crisis.

Guatemala

President Declares State of Emergency for Storm

PA2410124788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0517 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 23 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo declared a state of emergency tonight for the cities along the Pacific coast, bracing for the damage that may be caused by Tropical Storm Miriam.

According to the National Emergency Committee (CONE), the tropical storm, downgraded from Hurricane Joan, has not caused any casualties or damage, but with increasing winds of over 90 km per hour, it is feared the rainfall may cause rivers to overflow and cause flooding.

The atmospheric phenomenon, moving inward in the country at 15 km per hour, is hitting the departments of Escuintla, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, San Marcos, and Santa Rosa, and the port of San Jose, CONE reported.

The Guatemalan president decided to declare several Pacific coast departments in a state of emergency to coordinate with rescue crews the population's evacuation.

For its part, CONE asked the inhabitants of those departments to leave the lower regions and go to higher ground to avoid their becoming victims of river flooding and landslides.

The government issued official bulletins every 2 hours prohibiting boats from leaving port, especially from the port of San Jose, because of the huge waves.

Meanwhile, in the Guatemalan capital, some 120 km from the country's southern coast, the dense fog covering the area and intermittent rainfall only permits visibility of up to 50 meters. [passage omitted]

URNG Leader on Talks Need, Political Solution

PA2210121888 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Interview with Marco Tulio Gonzalez, URNG leader and representative in Cuba, by Pedro Martinez Pires in Havana; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] I would like to know whether the URNG still favors a political solution in Guatemala.

[Gonzalez] Of course. That has been our proposal since the civilian government's inauguration. We have proposed a dialogue with the government 21 times and a national dialogue 14 times. Our proposals have not had the desired reception, and the government continues to avoid holding a dialogue.

[Martinez] However, the URNG and the Guatemalan Government met in Madrid and in San Jose, Costa Rica, correct?

[Gonzalez] Yes, that is correct. We held two rounds of talks, one with the government in Madrid, and one with the National Reconciliation Commission in Costa Rica. The meeting in Madrid, however, was without results. It had no follow-up process. The results of the San Jose meeting were harshly attacked.

The government's position is that the URNG must disarm before it can hold talks with the government. We believe that this is a deceitful and inconsistent position. The government wants to achieve with negotiations what it could not achieve militarily.

[Martinez] What do you think is the main obstacle to holding talks between the Guatemalan Government and the URNG?

[Gonzalez] We know there is strong pressure from the Guatemalan Army as well as from the Reagan administration. In addition, there is also President Cerezo's political position. He has been unable and unwilling to adopt a truly democratic and broad political stance, a stance that could lead to holding bilateral talks.

[Martinez] Are you saying that Guatemala is not fulfilling Esquipulas II?

[Gonzalez] No, Guatemala is not fulfilling Esquipulas II. The Nicaraguan Government is the only one that has fulfilled its Esquipulas II commitments. The other governments have kept themselves too [words indistinct]. They have not abided by the main point of Esquipulas II, which is to achieve national peace. The other governments have not held talks with all the national opposition groups. Nicaragua is the only one that has held such talks. We demand that Vinicio Cerezo's government hold talks.

ORPA Kidnaps 40 Peasants in Chimaltenango

PA2310202388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1547 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Army reported today the first mass abduction by the Guatemalan guerrillas, who forcefully kidnapped 40 peasants in central Chimaltenango Department.

According to the sources, the peasants were kidnapped late on the night of 22 October by the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA). The peasants were returning to Acatenango (Chimaltenango Department) on Guatemala's southern coast, where they were temporarily working.

The military sources said "because of the heavy counterinsurgency operations in the area," the rebels "are acting desperately and are forcefully recruiting people." The sources did not rule out the possibility that the rebels' actions may be part of the forceful recruitment.

Chimaltenango Department military chiefs, who preferred to remain anonymous, asserted the Army is conducting a large counterinsurgency operation in the entire area and that this made the guerrillas feel desperate and worried.

According to the sources, members of ORPA, one of the three rebel groups that compose the URNG, are active in the regions of Acatenango, Pochuta, and Patzun.

The sources added the Army is carrying out operations in Chimaltenango Department to "dismantle active guerrilla groups," but that there has not yet been any direct contacts with the rebels," "because the rebels continue to "deal blows and escape without facing the enemy." [quotation marks as received]

URNG Announces New Broadcast by Rebel Station

PA2410234288 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Oct 88 p 3

[Communique issued by the URNG in Guatemala City on 19 October]

[Text] The URNG announces that beginning on 21 October, La Voz Popular will carry two weekly broadcasts.

In addition to the usual broadcast at 1715 on Fridays on the 41-meter band near 7 mHz, we will have a new broadcast, which will also be on the air on Fridays at 2000 on the 80-meter band on 3650 kHz.

With this new program, La Voz Popular—the URNG radio station that began broadcasting in May 1987—wants to better fulfill its obligation to report the truth to our people and to the peoples of the world about the situation in our country and the revolutionary and popular struggles that are taking place here.

The URNG deeply values the efforts by important media in our country to objectively report on various aspects that make up our reality, and it exhorts the media to resolutely face the challenge we must responsibly fulfill at this historic time.

Sincerely, URNG

Honduras

Azcona Comments on Talks With U.S. Over Bases

PA2110182088 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Honduras has not completely abandoned its intention of signing a third protocol to the 1954 Economic and Military Cooperation Agreement, President Jose Azcona has stated. He said—contradicting Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras, who has stated that the protocol would not be signed and that the negotiations had reached a dead end—that the protocol is being studied.

This is what President Azcona said to reporter Danilo Antunes.

[Begin recording] [Azcona] This protocol is being discussed, but it has not been signed. It is being discussed because it contains some debatable aspects, such as permanent installations. This has been discussed on several occasions. There has been no discussion about a base. The discussions have only dealt with the substitution of temporary bases for permanent bases that would always belong to Honduras, as Honduran military bases.

[Antunes] Will the protocol that Honduras and the United States were to have signed not be signed, as the foreign secretary has said?

[Azcona] We have not totally abandoned the idea. We are studying the protocol. The proposal was initiated by the United States, which has not said yet if it agrees with the way the protocol was drafted. The importance of protocols is that anything established by them has to be approved by the National Congress. [end recording]

Protocol 'Being Studied'

PA2410200188 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo has told this station the third protocol, which would normalize military relations between Honduras and the United States, is still being studied.

Azcona Hoyo has referred to this matter for the first time. It is a very controversial issue because, according to the opposition, an attempt is being made to create permanent U.S. military bases in Honduras.

The U.S. Embassy and the White House have disclosed they do not have any official message from the Honduran Government regarding a third treaty or a third protocol to the 1954 military treaty between the two nations.

President Azcona referred the [words indistinct] nonsigning of the third protocol. Here are his remarks:

[Begin Azcona recording] The protocol was under discussion. It is not a case in which it was already signed and we are now defending it. It was under discussion because there are very sensitive aspects, such as the building of permanent bases. However, it has been repeatedly explained this does not mean it is a basis [words indistinct] Honduran permanent installations. It is being studied. [end recording]

According to the Honduran president, the idea of signing the protocol is still there:

[Begin Azcona recording] We have not completely given up the idea of signing that protocol; we are still studying that matter. The U.S. proposal has not been answered, (?but I agree) with the drafting of the protocol. [end recording]

15 Drown in Hurricane Joan Flooding

PA2410130288 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1210 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The Tegucigalpa police have reported that 15 people, including 4 adults and 11 children, drowned on 20 October at Mojiman, Atlantida, but they were not found until 22 October, at approximately 1900. Police added that they were buried right away because the bodies had begun to decompose.

Police indicated these people had drowned in a Mojiman area river after it overflowed as a result of the passage of Hurricane Joan through our country. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

3 Towns 'Destroyed,' 300,000 Homeless From Storm

PA2410202888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1737 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Managua, 24 Oct (ACAN - EFE)—A partial tally of the damage caused by Hurricane Joan in its passage through Nicaragua today indicated about 50 deaths, 180 missing, 300,000 homeless, 3 Atlantic towns completely destroyed, no electricity or running water, and a severely damaged communications system.

In Managua, Joan left 1 dead and about 40 missing. Furthermore, 86 low-income houses were destroyed. Some parts of Managua continue to be flooded. Meanwhile, the Atlantic city of Bluefields, with a population of 40,000, has practically been erased from Nicaragua's geographical landscape.

The latest reports indicate almost all of the poorer neighborhoods located on the banks of Xolotlan Lake in Managua were destroyed by strong currents caused by the heavy rains and strong winds affecting Managua on the night of 22 October and early yesterday.

A day after the strong winds left Nicaraguan territory, Managua still does not have potable water or electricity. Only today did the city begin to resume its usual activity, after experiencing hours of terror and uncertainty.

Bluefields, a pleasant city on Nicaragua's Caribbean, was the most severely hit by the hurricane, because it was located where the hurricane entered. The city is now reduced to ruins.

According to preliminary reports, the hurricane left 3 dead and 50 injured in Bluefields. It also destroyed 6,000 wooden houses. [passage omitted]

In Rama, a city in Nicaragua's southern Atlantic region, 140 people are reported missing. Meanwhile, in Nueva Guinea, located in the same area, 80 percent of the homes were destroyed, according to the National Emergency Committee. The committee is headed by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

Francisco Montalvan, first secretary of the Spanish Embassy in Managua, said the EEC has offered to immediately send 100,000 ecus (about $116,000) in humanitarian aid for the people affected by the hurricane. [passage omitted]

Student, Teacher Aid Asked

PA2410233088 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2044 GMT 24 Oct 88

["Education Ministry communique" issued in Managua on 24 October; read by Education Minister Father Fernando Cardenal]

[Text] The National Education Consultative Council [Consejo Consultivo Nacional de Educacion]—composed of the Education Ministry, the National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers [ANDEN], the Federation of High School Students [FES], the (?Association of Sandinist Children) [ANS], and the National Parents Association—would like to address the following to Nicaragua's heroic elementary and high school students at this difficult time for our country, especially for our brothers on the Atlantic coast:

1. In response to the call made by Commander Omar Cabezas Lacayo, national coordinator of the Sandinist Defense Committees, we will carry out a solidarity campaign called Together We Can. Through this campaign, The education community will help respond to the fatherland's needs.

2. We ask all fifth and sixth graders, high school students, and teachers in general to go to their respective schools tomorrow, 25 October.

3. Each school's consultative council will organize teachers and students for the following activities:

a. Fifth and sixth grade students will be in charge of cleaning their schools.

b. High school students are urged to participate in the national radio talkathon and to organize brigades to collect food, clothes, and medicine, in solidarity with our brothers who have been left homeless by Hurricane Joan.

Once again Nicaragua's children, youth, and teachers are responding to the fatherland's call.

Joan has left, Reagan is leaving, the revolution remains.

Managua, 24 October 1988

Tinoco on Contra Aid, Sapoa Talks, Esquipulas

AU2510103688 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 21 Oct 88 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco by Danuta Walewska; date and place not given—"The Aggression and Pressure Fiasco"]

[Text] [Walewska] A few days ago, President Reagan said that he would not submit another request for aid to the contras. Why do you think this has happened? How was this news received in Nicaragua?

[Tinoco] For us, it meant official recognition by President Reagan that he does not have enough support in Congress to be able to provide further financial assistance to the contras. However, on the other hand, the U.S. President wanted Nicaragua to understand that in the future Washington might request such assistance.

So, it means recognition by the President that his policy toward Central America does not enjoy support in Congress and that the question of aid to the contras in the future remains open. It is also a warning for our government: "Do not touch my people, because I will request aid for them." We also took it to be an attempt to appease American right-wing extremists—Jean Kirkpatrick and Jack Kemp. They are being told: "I am not giving the contras assistance at the moment, but I can always request it."

[Walewska] For some time now, there was a different scenario that gave rise to anxiety in Nicaragua. Attention was drawn to the possibility of direct American intervention. Today, this seems to be impossible....

[Tinoco] However, we cannot exclude this possibility theoretically, but, nevertheless, direct intervention would be very costly for the United States. It would be opposed by Congress and American citizens would protest against it. Quite simply, the political cost would be too high in relation to effects. Nevertheless, the possibility remains.

[Walewska] Nicaraguans continue to live in a state of tension. To mention just one thing, I would point to the atmosphere of danger that existed as a result of American provocations on the border with Honduras before the meeting in Sapoa. Nevertheless, the meeting did take place. What has the Sapoa meeting changed about the situation in Central America?

[Tinoco] A face-to-face meeting between the contras and the Sandinists was possible for various reasons. As soon as the Esquipulas agreement was signed, people realized that American policy toward Central America had suffered a defeat. Thus, Central America's presidents looked for an alternative to the lack of stability in the region.

Sapoa was nothing more than putting one of the provisions of the Esquipulas agreement into practice. Our government has the broadest possible base, and that is why we could be the first to initiate a dialogue with the armed opposition. I hope that El Salvador and Guatemala will follow our example.

There were also a number of technical meetings after Sapoa, and we almost reached a final agreement. Thus, Sapoa meant important and, I hope, irreversible steps toward attaining peace.

[Walewska] How, in your opinion, will the situation in Central America develop now?

[Tinoco] Regardless of who wins the U.S. presidential election, whether it is a Republican or a Democrat, he will have to consider negotiating a solution. Undoubtedly, the Republicans will want to maintain the contras as a tool for applying pressure against the Nicaraguan Government, even if the units are reduced in size.

To date, the policy of aggression and pressure has produced nothing. The United States' relations with Nicaragua have deteriorated, and so have its relations with Guatemala and El Salvador, not to mention Panama. That is why the policy must change.

[Walewska] You are a member of the Sandinist government, and so you have a lot of contact with representatives of other Central American republics. Is the "spirit of Esquipulas" still alive?

[Tinoco] One way or another, we are all striving to achieve a common goal—boosting peace in our region. Until now, the attitude of the U.S. Government has proved an insurmountable obstacle. It did not want to allow a negotiated peace. It seemed to the U.S. Government that everything could be achieved on the battlefield with the help of the contras. However, the heads of Central American governments realize that 8 years of fighting have only produced death and destruction and serious economic problems, which affect all the countries in the region and not just Nicaragua. We are all hoping that the next administration will give us a breathing space and that the U.S. Government will display some tolerance. Our problems will be solved at the negotiating table and not on the battlefield.

So, the spirit of Esuipulas is alive. Everything that was signed and said there remains alive and pertinent. We have to wait once again until the situation matures and permits a final solution. The only question is when....

[Walewska] Precisely, when will this happen? Do you think it is more a question of years or of months?

[Tinoco] I think it is a question of a few months.

[Walewska] Thank you.

D'Escoto Meets Cypriot Legislative Delegation

NC2210223488 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 2000 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has stressed that his country will continue to support effors to find a just solution to the Cyprus problem. Speaking at a meeting with the all-party delegation from the Cyprus House of Representatives which is on a visit to Nicaragua, D'Escoto also expressed the support of his country's people for the Cypriot people's struggle.

D'Escoto said: The Cyprus issue is not an internal problem but a problem of foreign intervention. In his reply, House of Representative President Vasos Lissaridhis expressed his thanks to D'Escoto and affirmed the Cypriot people's solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people.

USSR Provides Aid for Fishing Industry

PA2110141388 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Oct 88 p 2

[Summary] Boris Monakov, deputy Soviet fish industry minister, has told BARRICADA that a training school for ship captains and seamen will soon be established in Nicaragua's Atlantic region as part of the Soviet Fish Industry Ministry's cooperation. Monakov, who is in Nicaragua participating in the sixth joint Soviet-Nicaraguan meeting on fishing cooperation, said the Soviet Union's help in this area is being expanded with a 10-million-ruble credit and a 2-million-ruble donation. According to a new cooperation agreement signed yesterday, the Soviet Union will also donate some fishing boats and supplies. There are currently 80 Nicaraguan youths studying in Soviet institutes dealing with fishing. The USSR will also provide Nicaragua with refrigerated trucks to transport fish.

Panama

Maj Delgado Criticizes U.S. Treaty Violations

PA2110194188 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Oct 88

["Excerpts" of speech by Panama Defense Forces (FDP) Major Daniel Delgado Diamante, executive director of the Panamanian Treaty Affairs Directorate, at the meeting of Latin American and Caribbean youth and students held at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City on 19 October—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...military violations of the treaties, it is important to first point out what is termed the geostrategic entity known as the Southern Command.

There is nothing in the Torrijos-Carter treaties that recognizes—much less authorizes—the presence of the geopolitical entity known as the Southern Command inside Panamanian territory. The Southern Command is an organization that acts beyond Panamanian borders and contradicts the canal joint defense pact in accordance with Article No 4, which establishes that the FDP and the U.S. Armed Forces have the joint and exclusive task of canal protection and defense.

A strategic command such as the Southern Command, as a joint participant in defending the canal, places the canal within U.S. global strategy as a strategic point for defending the American subcontinent in accordance with a U.S. concept of national security. The canal should be a peaceful commercial transit waterway, according to the 1977 treaties.

When the Torrijos-Carter treaties refer to U.S. participation in the canal's defense, it mentions U.S. forces. The presence of the Southern Command in Panama violates the neutrality that protects the canal through the neutrality treaty, because the role of the Southern Command as a geostrategic and political entity at continental level involves the canal in that geopolitical concept and converts the waterway in a war zone in any conflict involving the United States.

The treaties stipulate that the amount of U.S. participation in the canal's defense should decrease because Subpart 3 of Article 4 of the treaty mentions that the FDP must have increased participation in canal protection and defense missions, which obviously implicitly includes a gradual reduction of U.S. troops in Panama.

The offices for the Security Assistance Organization for all of Latin America were not part of the Southern Command in March 1986 [year as heard]. They appeared under the Southern Command's operational and administrative offices in October 1987. Thus, the coverage from Panama of this geostrategic and geopolitical entity increases, violating treaty stipulations. [10-second interruption by announcer]

The current crisis in Panamanian-U.S. relations has worsened because of U.S. Government measures that contradict the canal and other agreements. For example:

Authorization for Panama Canal Commission [PCC] employees to purchase goods in military stores and commissaries, despite this privilege having expired on 1 October 1984, in accordance with Article 3 Subpart 3 of the canal treaties;

The U.S. Government's refusal to pay the Panamanian Government its percentages of the fixed annuity of $10 million;

The payment of surpluses that could reach up to $10 million;

The annual payment of $10 million for reimbursable public services provided by the Republic of Panama in canal operating areas such as stated in Article 3 Subparts 4, a, b, and c of the Panama Canal Treaties.

All this adds up to approximately $76 million that the U.S. Government has not paid our government.

Use by PCC employees of PCC equipment, facilities, and work areas to carry out political actions violates Article 3 Subpart 1 and 2 of the treaty. U.S. Government recognition of new functions of the PCC Board of Director's secretary, which allows him to replace the president of the Board of Directors and allows him to act as his adviser, violates the treaty because it establishes the number of directors by each country. Thus, the United States cannot unilaterally assign the secretary new duties, making him equal to a director, and then even act as board president under certain cirumstances. This decision specifically violates Article 3 Subpart 3A of the treaties.

The U.S. decision to suspend the Board of Directors' rule requirement under part 1.5-A, which specifies at least two Board of Directors meetings should be held in Panama, contradicts the spirit of the treaty, which is intended to increasingly familiarize Panamanians with the canal administration, which can be done better by allowing the Board of Directors to meet in Panama so they can have easy access to PCC personnel and information.

Solis Speaks to L.A. Youth Representatives

PA2510001188 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2318 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, to participants at the meeting of Latin American and Caribbean youth and students at the presidential palace in Panama City on 24 October—recorded]

[Text] In Panama, we are not only waging the battle of Panama. We are waging the battle of Latin America and of the other oppressed peoples of the world. We are not trying to say that we are the only ones involved in the struggle, because many peoples are constantly suffering and struggling, as Miss Vigil [not further identified] well said. However, it is our turn now, and we youths, adults, senior citizens, men, women, all of us have the responsibility to respond to the challenge that history has given us. Each one of you has waged this battle at one time. All of you are representatives of countries which, in one way or another, have waged this battle for the dignity of Latin America and of the oppressed peoples.

Today we are in what could be described as the eye of the storm. However, we are going to continue to move forward, and your presence here gives us strength to continue the struggle. That is the Panamanian people's commitment to the Latin American youth who have been present here and who have so generously expressed their solidarity.

We thank you for that solidarity, and we make a formal promise that the men who are in the government and the Panama Defense Forces—which are models, but not the only ones, of the struggle for national liberation—will not fail. I tell you that we would rather die on our feet than live on bended knees. That is our commitment. That is what we promise you today. This is unity between the Panamanian people and the Latin American youths, which will last throughout the years. In the future we will be able to say, as our national anthem states: At last we achieve victory through the joyous spirit of unity! Thank you very much.

Costa Rican Cited on 'Distorted' Incident

PA2510015888 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 23 Oct 88 p 8-A

[Text] Costa Rican Planning Minister Jorge Monge has said he regrets the way the media distorted the facts regarding the incident that occurred during a casual meeting with Panama Defense Forces [FDP] soldiers on a road in the border area.

Monge conveyed this to Panamanian Planning Minister Gustavo R. Gonzalez during a telephone conversation. Minister Monge himself called Gonzalez and expressed his desire to report on the recent border area incident.

During the conversation, Minister Monge said there were no attempts by the FDP soldiers to either interfere with his motorcade or to detain, threaten, or arrest him. In a letter sent to the minister in charge of the Presidency reporting the details of the conversation with the Costa Rican minister, Minister Gustavo Gonzalez said: "Minister Monge believed it was his duty to report to the appropriate authorities in his country the real facts surrounding the casual meeting, which should not hinder the good relations that exist between the two nations."

Gonzalez added: "Minister Monge concluded our conversation in a cordial manner, wishing to reiterate his desire to discuss the plans to contribute to the harmonious coexistence of residents on both sides of the border."

The incident occurred on 11 October in Sabalito, a few minutes from the Panamanian border. According to Minister Monge, his motorcade intercepted two FDP "jeeps" on the road. According to [Monge's] report, he asked the soldiers if they were aware they were in Costa Rican territory, and they said yes. The note sent by Minister Gonzalez to Solis Palma states: "The people in the Panamanian vehicles had taken a shortcut to avoid a bad road with no other purpose than to continue to Panamanian territory as soon as they reached a suitable route."

In a copy of the report sent by Monge to the Costa Rican foreign relations minister, which was sent via telefax to Minister Gonzalez, Minister Monge said he asked the Panamanian soldiers "to leave our country, to which they immediately agreed."

Rights Group Condemns U.S. 'Aggression'
PA2210005688 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] The National Human Rights Commission of Panama [Comision de Derechos Humanos en Panama] has released a report signed by its president, Olga Mejia, condemning U.S. aggression against the Panamanian people, interference in the country's domestic affairs, and the threat of a direct military intervention. In addition, it demands the lifting of economic sanctions against Panama and an end to U.S. aggression.

According to the document, everything seems to indicate that the United States is determined to implement a long-range strategy to wear out Panama and thereby to create the conditions that would lead to the worsening of social problems. The document states that once the country is at its weakest point, the United States will deliver its final blow.

Reagan 'Formula': 'Democracy Laced With Genocide'
PA2410225588 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 24 Oct 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Reagan's Democracy Saturated With Genocide"]

[Text] The democratic facade that has become the trademark of Mr Ronald Reagan's misgovernment is characterized primarily by a distinct hypersensitivity to everything he personally believes is a violation of human rights.

Professing democratic fervor, this gentleman and his supporting team raise an outcry—as a precautionary measure to preserve their country's domestic peace—if any government they consider unfriendly (read not submissive) takes away the freedom of those who organize actions against the country by purchasing weapons and recruiting mercenaries to brandish them.

Based on this premise, Nicaragua and Panama are two of the many countries that violate human rights; however, if the Salvadoran Government imprisons people by the dozens and kills hundreds opposed to the regime, its actions are considered justifiable. The government is simply exercising its right to self-defense, a right that in this case is considered much more valid than the oftenmentioned human rights.

And if U.S. police officers democratically resort to clubbing demonstrators with their not-so-democratic sticks, as they did last week, they are not violating the human right to freedom of expression. After all, a stick also has the right to express itself every now and then.

The American people—just like all the other people in the world and unlike the U.S. Government—are sincere as far as their feelings are concerned. They are deeply moved by any misfortune besetting either a single human being or a group of them. They are even moved when animals suffer. We have seen them rush to rescue three whales trapped under a thick layer of ice. Mr Reagan, not to be outdone and feigning interest, recently said that he is also willing to help as much as he can to save the threatened whales from a tragic fate.

It is far too difficult, however, to believe in this gentleman's sincerity. After all, how can you expect a man to feel pity for these whales when he does not hesitate to break his country's word by giving terrorists weapons to exterminate fellow human beings? And how can you believe someone who used the money from that clandestine exchange to supply a portion of the Nicaraguan people with weapons so they could exterminate the other half of the population who share the same blood?

How can we believe this man, who claims to respect human rights, when he seems bent on doing away with the Panamanian people's livelihood? How can we give Mr Reagan an ounce of credibility if we consider the fact that he excluded Panama from a recent list of countries affected by hurricanes that would receive money, medicine, and other basic necessities from organizations in the United States? Costa Rica and Nicaragua did appear on the list, but he seemed to have conveniently forgotten about Panama.

Democracy laced with genocide seems to be the latest formula in the final stages of Mr Reagan's administration. In leaving us off his list of aid beneficiaries, he even denies us our right as Panamanians to refuse his aid. Accepting his aid would damage our right to maintain our dignity—a right that nobody, including Reagan, can ever take away.

U.S. Envoy's Daughter Undermining Southcom Chief
PA2110133488 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 20 Oct 88 p 1

[Unattributed "special report": "Woerner, the One Screwing You Up (te esta jodiendo) Is Susan Davis"]

[Text] Washington—Susan Davis, daughter of U.S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur Davis, was involved in an "affair" [affaire] or scandal on her arrival from Europe a few days ago. The scandal involved her and Senator D'Amato and was the "talk of the town" among officials and diplomats here.

Moreover, it has been confirmed that Davis returned from Europe with clear and specific instructions to wage a propaganda campaign against General Fred Woerner, chief of the U.S. Southern Command based in Panama.

Susan Davis is acting in coordination with [Deputy Chief of Mission] John Maisto, and a new effort is to be made to force professional U.S. soldiers to invade our

small country, whose people are already enduring a harsh embargo that is largely the result of anti-Panamanian machinations by Maisto, Arthur Davis, and his daughter Susan.

D'Amato, a staunch enemy of Panama and of good relations between the United States and Panama, was involved in this affair, which will become known in Panama very soon, with its hints of corruption.

Plotting Against Country

PA2410224688 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 23 Oct 88 p 6-A

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "Susan's Wrongdoings"]

[Text] Susan Davis, daughter of U.S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur Davis, is a woman of great influence who takes part in high-level political activities within the U.S. Republican Party. She actively participates in that political party's women's activities. She has been known as "an audacious feminist" within GOP circles from the time she headed the "National Women Forum" and the "Women Business Owners Committee" [names in English]. In 1985 she was included among the most powerful women in the United States. In 1972 she worked in Richard Nixon's presidential campaign, in 1976 in President Ford's campaign, and in 1980 in the Reagan-Bush campaign. In 1984 she was assigned to welcome the leaders who attended President Reagan's second inauguration. Her participation in the current U.S. presidential campaign is unknown.

As we can see, Susan Davis is a very powerful woman within GOP circles and is capable of causing great damage to those whom she feels can obstruct her plans.

According to Washington circles, "she regards her influence so highly that she has even dared to plot against U.S. military commanders," who generally do not participate in U.S. political activities.

When she arrived in Panama, Susan Davis began an anti-Panamanian campaign, violating international diplomatic regulations. She immediately allied herself with local groups opposed to the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], particularly to its commander, Manuel Antonio Noriega. She adopted Senator Jesse Helms' policy "aimed at not returning the canal to Panama," and she joined Edward Kennedy and Alan Cranston in applying "the Democratic Project" in Panama, and Alfonso D'Amato in his campaign of slander and accusations against General Noriega.

Under her leadership, the U.S. Embassy became the "center of anti-Panamanian plotting," with the collaboration of Panamanians willing to help our traditional enemies.

Making illegal use of his diplomatic immunity, U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis permitted the operation inside the U.S. Embassy of "Susan Davis International," an agency of terrorist disinformation against Panama, whose address is 1818 N Street, N.W., Suite 150, Washington, D.C.; telephone number (202) 775-8881.

"Susan Davis International" was previously known as "Susan Davis and Associates." It offered its services to Panamanian opposition groups "as a public relations and lobbying firm and serving as their legal representative in Washington, D.C.," an offer which was accepted, according to reports submitted by Susan Davis herself—who was registered as "foreign agent No 3444 to carry out a campaign in favor of Panamanian opposition groups." In the same document, Susan Davis describes herself as "the person in charge of giving advice and guidance to her clients on matters related to congressional relations and other activities, for which she received weekly fees of $3,000 plus $250 for overtime work." With additional payments, "Susan Davis International" dedicated itself to "developing an active campaign against FDP Commander in Chief Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega."

Despite all her efforts, the false reports sent through the U.S. Embassy, the illegal use of her country's diplomatic pouch to bombard the U.S. Senate with murky disinformation against Panama, and to send documents and correspondence from the Panamanian opposition to the Justice Department, despite her constant "disinformation packages against Panama and the Pentagon," Susan Davis has not managed to have the U.S. Army intervene militarily in Panama, as explicitly mentioned in the agreement signed between "Susan Davis International" and its Panamanian associates, who have already paid her $200,000 in fees.

"Fred Woerner, commander in chief of the U.S. Southern Command, is to be blamed for the Pentagon's inertia," Susan Davis stressed in an attempt made with her allies Helms, D'Amato, and Kennedy as well as the promoters of the "Democracy Project" to have Gen Woerner removed or transferred from Panama.

Once again, Susan Davis is abusing the U.S. Embassy's diplomatic immunity by turning it into a center for a campaign against Woerner, the Southern Command, and other Defense Department officials.

FDP Officer Rejects Legislator's Accusations

PA2110133188 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Major Felipe Camargo today responded to slanderous statements made by Christian Democratic Party Legislator Guillermo Cochez.

Camargo said Cochez is intentionally making false statements to discredit the FDP.

In a letter sent late this afternoon to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, which published Cochez' charges that Camargo maltreated Carlos Alfaro Hart, Maj Camargo said an FDP officer would not expose a recently tortured individual, who still had marks on his body, to the U.S. press for use as evidence.

In his letter, which we will read in upcoming broadcasts, Maj Camargo stated that everybody is aware of Legislator Cochez' links with the political movements that are trying to sell out Panamanian dignity and with the efforts of well-known traitors, who frequently travel to Washington to beg for a Yankee invasion of Panama and for a government position at the expense of the blood of Panamanian patriots.

In his letter denying Legislator Cochez's accusations, Maj Camargo also stressed that Cochez as well as his treacherous seditious allies here in Panama and in the U.S. Embassy often exploit the permanent urge of the new rich little daddy's boys, who need to show off every day by attacking the FDP so they are treated as equals at their aristocratic social gatherings.

PRD's Escobar Urges Dialogue, Constitutionality

PA2210031388 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 21 Oct 88 p 10

[Text] Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, former president of the Panamanian Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), has rejected the call to form a constituent assembly. Escobar claims that the Panamanian Government must maintain its current constitutionality.

Expressing his disagreement with the opinion of Moises Torrijos, brother of late General Omar Torrijos, Escobar said that "Panama must maintain its constitutionality, support Solis Palma's administration, and go to the polls in 1989."

Escobar added that "the most positive action the country could take would be to maintain its constitutional regime and to hold a large dialogue among Panamanians to achieve a solution to our problems."

Commenting on the proposal promoted by current PRD President Carlos Duque to hold new talks with the United States, Romulo Escobar said that "all talks to seek a solution to our country's problems are positive," but he added that "a dialogue among Panamanians is more crucial."

People's Party Leader on Electoral Process

PA2410153888 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Interview with Cleto Souza, member of the People's Party's (PdP) Political Bureau, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Souza] We, as a registered party, are in the process of meeting all legal requirements. We view the opening of the electoral process with satisfaction and have registered to participate. We feel that we are the workers' party; we are the working class' and the people's party, and in view of the difficult situation, we are one of the channels through which the workers' vote can be expressed.

[Reporter] How is the PdP organizing for these elections?

[Souza] We held our congress on 23 September. There is some paperwork that we still need to process at the Electoral Tribunal, and will need to decide on our candidates.

[Reporter] How many PdP members are there right now?

[Souza] We registered the party with 25,600 signatures.

PALA Legislator on 1989 Presidential Elections

PA2210032188 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 21 Oct 88 p 10

[Text] In answer to questions by MEDIODIA reporters concerning Panamanian PALA's [Labor Party] political views, Honorable Legislator Argenida de Barrios stressed that "PALA must occupy a prominent position in the government presidential nomination process for the 7 May 1989 elections."

The Colon Province legislator added: "The future government alliance must take into account the political aspirations of PALA members, because this time we will not make the sacrifice we made in the 1984 elections, when we gave up our aspirations for the sake of unity."

Argenida de Barrios said that "if someone tries to keep PALA from getting one of the vice presidential nominations for the 1989 elections," her party would go alone to the elections.

Draft Budget Presented to Legislative Assembly

PA2210004788 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 21 Oct 88 p 2

[Text] The draft budget for the next fiscal year presented to the Legislative Assembly shows significant reductions in areas dealing with public expenditures, investment projects, and revenues compared to the budget approved by the Legislative Assembly in 1987.

According to the information gathered by MEDIODIA, the 1989 draft budget shows a 63-percent reduction in government expenditures compared to the budget approved in 1987 for the 1988 fiscal year.

The 1989 draft budget estimates managing expenses at 632 million balboas, which is considerably less than the 1.7 billion balboas set aside for this purpose in 1987.

Reductions in investment projects are also foreseen. The 1987 budget estimated a need for 161 million balboas for investment projects while the current draft budget estimates only 42 million balboas for this purpose.

60 Percent of Expected Revenues Collected

PA2110142488 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Interview with Comptroller General Francisco Rodriguez by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rodriguez] As we explained in the budget commission, where we presented a budget report for the first 3 quarters of this year, only about 60 percent of the estimated revenues have been collected. In absolute terms, this means $440 million has been collected by the central government in the first 9 months of the year. It had originally been estimated that the government would collect $770 million; therefore, there has been a $330-million reduction in the collection of revenues.

Therefore, the central government has logically been giving priority to this year's payments, especially to its employees, which as you all know has been strictly fulfilled. The government has also met its commitments, especially those concerning Social Security and some priority obligations, especially in the areas of health and education. Other government expenditures have had to be limited to the available resources.

In view of this outlook, we have pointed out the public sector's difficulty in meeting all its obligations. Therefore, we reported on the government's inability to make the 13th-month bonus payments last quarter. You are also aware an agreement was subsequently reached with public employees for the payment of the 13th-month bonus. One part would be paid in late October, and the rest would be paid in December, if circumstances allow. We still have no indication from the executive branch that this commitment will not be met. Obviously, payment of this commitment will mean the government will have to make sacrifices in other areas. That is obvious, and we have reiterated it. Honestly, we have to say it.

[Reporter] Following the deferred payment of the 13th-month bonus, which will extend until December, what will happen with the 13th-bonus month payment that was scheduled for December?

[Rodriguez] We will continue to review the situation, as we have done in the first 9 months of the year. The government will only be able to pay according to what it collects.

[Reporter] You have just arrived in the country from a tour abroad. Does that mean fresh money will be coming to Panama?

[Rodriguez] No, I was participating in a short meeting of Latin American, Caribbean, Spanish, and Portuguese comptrollers. It was a meeting in which we shared experiences. As a member of a board of directors of international comptrollers, we had to present a series of reports. It had nothing to do with Panama's receiving fresh money. We were just participating as a comptroller in an international meeting because we belong to the board of directors of this inter-American institute of comptrollers.

Assembly Panel Studies Bank Restrictions Bill

PA2110162488 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] The Legislative Assembly's Commerce Commission held the first round of talks today with top officials from the National Banking Commission and the Panama Banking Association to explain the details of the bill on measures to be implemented on bank deposits. If the bill is approved, restrictions imposed by the National Banking Commission on local bank deposits in March 1988 could be lifted; that is, existing restrictions on bank account withdrawals would be lifted. Unrestricted withdrawals may be made from accounts with restricted balances up to $1,000.

National Council of Organized Workers representatives, other associations, and Deputy Finance and Treasury Minister Azael Purcait reviewed the bill. They also heard the views of bankers, who have different opinions on this topic. However, they do believe this is a way to restore trust in the Panamanian banking system.

Moreover, Clemente Abrego, president of the Legislative Assembly's Commerce Commission, gave his opinion regarding the introduction of the bill, which calls for the lifting of restrictions on local deposits:

[Begin recording] [Abrego] The bill that has been introduced will lead us to discuss the possible lifting of restrictions on bank deposits. The bill calls for the lifting of restrictions on all deposits not higher than $1,000. Those deposits higher than $1,000 will experience a progressive lifting of restrictions. Other measures are established regarding the interest that should be paid on the currently restricted funds.

[Reporter] Have the National Banking Commision and the Panama Banking Association shown any support for this bill?

[Abrego] This is the first meeting we are holding with these people, with whom we had to consult. Currently, they are opposed to it, because they have also been studying the possibility of lifting the restrictions through different methods. However, we believe we will find solutions, along with them, that can contribute to the national economy, and we will find ways to lift restrictions on the funds. [end recording]

Labor Ministry Issues Unemployment Report

PA2110162388 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 20 Oct 88 p 2

[Text] The Labor Ministry's Labor and Employment Directorate has carried out a study on unemployment in Panama. The report states that 106,894 people are currently unemployed and that 34,296 Panamanians have been laid off in the past few months as a result of the country's current crisis. Prior to the crisis, 72,598 people were unemployed.

According to labor economists, this figure is pretty accurate because it is the result of studies carried out by the Finance and Treasury Ministry, private consulting firms, and opposition parties.

Argentina

Peronist Provincial Governors Call for Protest

PY2410170288 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1152 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Rawson, Chubut, 24 Oct (DYN)—Peronist provincial governors have called for demonstrations on 4 November to repudiate the government's economic policy. The governors released a strongly-worded document denouncing "the irresponsible management of the nation's public finances for electoral purposes, which may touch off a dangerous explosion of social tensions" in their provinces.

Ending 2 days of deliberations in this city, the provincial governors affirmed that "by illegally withholding funds and not collecting revenues it must share with the provinces, the government is deliberately putting a stranglehold on the provincial economies and discrediting Justicialist administrations, thus creating social conflicts in their provinces."

Although the document does not say so, the Justicialist Party (PJ) may call for the "political impeachment" of President Raul Alfonsin due to his economic policies, according to a statement to the press by Justicialist presidential candidate Carlos Menem.

The document formally anticipates a series of contacts with various Argentine social, business, labor, and political sectors in order to demand, through activities that may include a march on Plaza de Mayo, that the serious financial situation of the provinces "be clarified," according to information provided by the Justicialist bloc leader in the Chamber of Deputies, Jose Luis Manzano.

CGT [General Confederation of Labor] Secretary General Saul Ubaldini, who attended the governors' meeting in Rawson, believes the CGT will "support" the actions proprosed by the Justicialist governors, such as rallies at the provinces and attendance at the 11 November Senate session where the national budget and funds for the provinces will be debated.

The Justicialist governors asserted that "if the government, through its monetary and fiscal policy, intends to financially strangle the provinces, they are determined to jointly take autonomous actions to finance themselves through their own credit instruments."

In the document released by the Justicialist governors, the UCR government is branded as "the world's inflation record holder, with a 75,000-percent accumulated inflation rate." It adds that in 5 years of the Alfonsin administration, real salaries have shrunk by 30 percent and "the unemployment rate is now the highest in history and the public debt is also exceptionally high."

The document then contends that "with an eye on the 14 May 1989 presidential elections, the federal government is illegally withholding 4.86 billion australes in fuel tax surplus." Then it points out that "the federal government is not transfering budget-allocated co-participation funds, nor does it comply with legal commitments under the Regional Development Fund, the basic regional programs, and other regional programs."

The governors of the 17 provinces with PJ adminstrations in another passage of the document state that "its failures notwithstanding, the federal government maliciously intends to make the provinces responsible for the crisis, disregarding the fact that they only administer 20 percent of the nation's public expenditures and have no power whatsoever to determine the nation's economic policy."

The document then reads: "The Justicialist provincial governors, representatives of the Argentine people's majority, are duty-bound to denounce the irresponsible management of the nation's public finances for electoral purposes, which may touch off the explosion of dangerous social tensions."

The document entitled "Rawson's Declaration" finally states that "we have no other motivation than to consolidate a democracy with economic growth, social justice, and responsible government devoid of electoral ambitions."

CP Leader on Party Role, Chile Vote, Falklands

AU2310173388 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 19 Oct 88 pp 1, 4

[Text] Athos Fava, secretary general of the Communist Party of Argentina, is visiting Bulgaria at the invitation of the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] Central Committee. He was kind enough to answer questions from Lyudmil Totev, representative of the NARODNA ARMIYA Editorial Board.

At the beginning of this year the PCA celebrated the 70th anniversary of its formation. Throughout its entire past history, the party has always conducted a tireless struggle in defense of the interests of the workers class and working people.

At the ninth national party conference in 1980, Athos Fava was elected secretary general. He was born on 30 November 1925 in Buenos Aires Province. After completing his basic education, he took courses in engineering drawing and attended a people's university in the capital. In the period up to 1946 he worked in a number of metallurgical enterprises, where he gained an understanding of the depth of the injustice existing in capitalist society. In 1945 he joined the ranks of the PCA.

A consistent internationalist, Athos Fava has always campaigned for strengthening the unity and solidarity of the international communist and workers movement. Under his leadership, the PCA forms a fighting vanguard of the workers class and all progressive people in the world.

[Totev] Comrade Secretary General, what is the place and role of the PCA in Argentina's domestic political life?

[Fava] At the current stage, it is the PCA's aim, together with all left-wing and revolutionary forces, to organize the masses' struggle for achieving their most deeply felt demands in connection with their social and economic problems—low wages, unemployment, and inflation—and also to reveal the political perspective in this economic and social struggle; that is, to create through this struggle a united political project directed against the domination of the imperialist monopolies, the big national bourgeoisie, and the landowners' oligarchy, who enjoy privileges in Argentina and hold the power in their hands. They are the ones who in actual fact dictate the situation in the country. The fundamental and central task in this economic and political struggle of the people is the social liberation of our native land, and the unification of all democratic anti-imperialist forces is an important condition for achieving this goal.

[Totev] How are the results of the recent referendum in Chile being assessed on the Latin American Continent?

[Fava] Despite the threats of the dictatorship, the repression, and the monopoly over the mass media, a substantial victory was won, in that the majority expressed their rejection of Pinochet's policies. This is an important victory for the democratic forces in Chile. On the other hand, it should not be forgotten that 43 percent of the voters voted for the proposal. This means that they cast their votes for an economic and political program, whereas those who voted "no" simply voted against Pinochet. The opposition had no unified platform. The victory was won by an amalgamation of forces, and the leadership within this amalgamation lies in the hands of the Christian Democrats. The Communist Party of Chile played an important part in the plebiscite. The party's standpoint was that support must be given to the "no" vote, and that, after victory, demands should be made for Pinochet's resignation, the repeal of the 1980 Constitution, and the formation of a democratic coalition government.

This is a first victory, the first step forward, but we must not forget that the dictatorship in any event still continues to exist.

[Totev] We learned recently that a new meeting of the commanders in chief of the Latin American armies took place in Mar del Plata. What would you like to say about the activities of this supernational military structure?

[Fava] This was the 17th such meeting of the commanders in chief of the Latin American armies, which shows that these links are renewed at periodic intervals. At the Mar del Plata meeting they discussed the issue of how to respond to the spread of Marxism-Leninism and the influence of the USSR, Cuba, and Nicaragua over the continent. The entire program is being developed under the leadership of the North American military. The integration of all the military forces in Latin America with the U.S. Army is increasing. The armed forces have the role of observing and monitoring the democratic governments and of crushing revolutionary movements of any kind. On the other hand, they safeguard the interests of the multinational companies and the large economic communities in the individual countries, and in this way are the servants of a particular economic and social model.

[Totev] The news from Argentina is often connected with the continuing conflict in the Malvinas....

[Fava] This question is connected with the preceding one. The Malvinas lie in the South Atlantic and, because of their position, dominate the sea routes in this region. The Panama Canal is already very old for the transit of modern vessels, and if this waterway is eliminated, the Beagle Channel and passage at the southern tip of the continent will increase in importance. For this reason the aim is for the Malvinas to remain under the domination of Britain and the United States. They have now been turned into nuclear missile bases for NATO. The seizure of the islands by British and American imperialism reflects their desire to have their own bases at every point in the world. This also applies to the bases in Guantanamo, Panama, and the Galapagos Islands [as published]. The existence of these bases is a result of the neoglobalist policy of the Reagan administration against the socialist system and against the liberation struggle of the peoples in Latin America and other parts of the world. Not only in Argentina, but throughout Latin America, the fight for the return of the Malvinas is not ceasing.

[Totev] On Monday President Sarney of Brazil began his visit to Moscow. Does this visit signify a further step to draw the Latin American Continent closer to the ideas of the new political thinking? How are the numerous peace initiatives of the USSR, Bulgaria, and the other socialist countries being received in this part of the world?

[Fava] I think that in Latin America a program exists that is being developed and applied by the multinational corporations with the aim of creating a new production structure and making the countries of the continent even more economically dependent. The local bourgeoisie has serious conflicts with the multinational corporations and the United States, conflicts that we should not forget, but should make use of. This does not mean that the bourgeoisie in Latin America is not interested in peace or ecology problems. Accordingly, this bold and correct

policy of the USSR and the People's Republic of Bulgaria in this field has made a vast impression, and not only on the masses in Latin America. I believe that any deepening of the ties between the Latin American countries and the socialist countries in all fields—economic, diplomatic, or cultural—is a positive development, since these links are an expression of the new political thinking. They exert a positive influence for social progress and, most of all, for preventing nuclear catastrophe.

Contacts between people are always enriching in their effects. That is why I want to thank NARODNA ARMIYA for this interview and to convey through you my greetings to the whole of the Bulgarian people, and especially to the soldiers and officers of the Bulgarian People's Army. We feel great sympathy toward them because of their traditions and their lofty revolutionary spirit.

Bolivia

Armed Forces Chief Discusses Guerrilla Groups

PY2110135888 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Bolivian Armed Forces Commander General Jorge Rodriguez Bravo has reported that the Armed Forces have disbanded a guerrilla group that has been trying to become established in La Paz Department.

The Chachacomani region was the center of this irregular group. He added that a group of (?17) people managed to elude all military control posts and escaped probably toward the border.

The Armed Forces commander reported that the two [as heard] groups have been operating with walkie-talkies, and that they have been led by irresponsible commanders who know what they are doing.

He added that the Armed Forces have tried to contact the rebels but that they managed to disband 48 hours before the military intervention. He added that the Armed Forces security organizations have learned that this group is identified with the Tupac Katari organization.

He denied, however, that this group is necessarily involved with legal political parties in the country. He explained that the Bolivian Armed Forces feel that guerrilla movements could emerge at any moment in the country, considering the extremely conflictive border areas. He said that a guerrilla outbreak makes no previous announcements, and that because of their modus operandi, they can emerge at any moment.

In view of this, Gen Rodriguez Bravo has stated that the Bolivian Armed Forces are prepared to face any attempt to impose violence within our territory. He added that there are special units trained in antisubversive actions and that they are ready to take action at any time. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Sarney: Problems Political, Not Economic

PY2410144688 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] President Jose Sarney arrived in Brasilia last night, ending a 9-day visit to France, the Soviet Union, and Portugal.

In Portugal, the last country he visited, President Sarney said that Brazil's greatest problem is not economic, but political, and that the country needs to adapt itself to the dictates of the new Constitution. Before embarking for Brazil, Sarney admitted that he may implement a deindexation of the economy in order to curb the high rate of inflation.

Despite the current high rate of inflation, President Sarney does not believe that it will reach 30 percent. The president said that the government plans to increase social investments so that by the year 2000 Brazil will be investing 12 percent of its GDP in that sector. He reaffirmed his confidence in the country and said that its greatest problem is not economic, but political.

After an interview with the Literary Center of Lisbon, President Sarney, along with Portuguese President Mario Soares, visited the (Xiado) recuperation project. Late Sunday afternoon Sarney left Lisbon, returning to Brazil.

President Sarney arrived in Brasilia at 2340. Today he will resume normal government activities. This morning he will meet with Labor Minister Arnaldo Costa Couto and ministers of the economic area at the Alvorada Palace. At the Planalto Palace this afternoon he will be briefed by government experts on the proposal to be made at the social pact discussions being conducted between labor and business leaders.

Sarney Adopts Measures To Control Strike

PY2510010588 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Report by unidentified reporter from Government House]

[Text] Carlos Enrique do Santos, press secretary of the Presidency, will read a memorandum sent by President Jose Sarney to all the ministers establishing measures regarding the strike of public employees.

[Begin Do Santos recording] President Jose Sarney has sent a memorandum to all the ministers stating the following: Taking into consideration the need to adopt a uniform procedure regarding the public employees strike, and considering that their right to strike is guaranteed by Paragraph 7 of Article No 37 of the Constitution—which has yet to be regulated by a complementary law—and that the right to strike cannot be exercised at

will; and considering that the government is determined to guarantee the normal functioning of the public services for the population in general, I hereby determine that each ministry must strictly control the attendance of its employees to their work place and that those employees who are absent from work must be fired.

An inquiry must be opened within the framework of the laws in force to find out any illegal procedures committed by employees or chiefs regarding their attendance at their work.

Those office chiefs who join the strike, or who do not exercise their responsibilities in front of their subordinate staff, must be removed from posts of responsibility.

The ministers must seek police aid to prevent the employees on strike from gathering outside the entrance to ministry buildings and public offices, to ensure the free entrance of public and working employees to the ministries, and to protect public property.

The public employees on strike will not be allowed to hold assemblies inside any ministry auditorium or hall.

The government is aware of the legitimate demands of public employees and it is willing to help prepare the complementary law to the Constitution article on the right to strike to ensure the efficiency of the new rules and principles established by the Constitution.

The country needs the support of all its public employees to carry out this task as soon as possible for the benefit of all. [end recording]

Sarney on Debt, Ties With U.S., Eastern Bloc

PM2410140488 Paris LE FIGARO in French 14 Oct 88 p 5

[Interview with President Jose Sarney by Patrick Wajsman at Sarney's ranch near Brasilia—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Patrick Wajsman: How do you intend to overcome your foreign debt?

Jose Sarney: We could discuss that for hours! But I will simply say this, and it sums up my conviction on this burning issue. There is not just one aspect to the debt, but two: an economic and financial aspect and a political aspect.

The economic and financial aspect is the one which relates to transactions between the debtor countries and their creditors—especially the bankers. By establishing a modus vivendi with its creditors, Brazil recently showed that it had the means of dealing with this financial aspect of the debt.

The political aspect goes beyond mere figures and stresses the joint responsibility of the debtor and creditor countries. Indeed, the debt cannot—and must not—continue to be a means of asphyxiating the Third World countries which have now become net exporters of capital.

I would like to emphasize that Brazil is a big country (140 million inhabitants, half the surface area of Latin America, and the eighth biggest Western economy) which will never break its promises. However, it will continue to show solidarity with those Latin American and Third World countries which will never be able to repay their debts. I repeat that you cannot hope for democracy to develop harmoniously in Latin America and, at the same time, force the Latin American states to be net exporters of capital on a lasting basis. These two demands are incompatible.

Patrick Wajsman: Since you came to power, you have taken a number of foreign policy initiatives. I would like to have a brief explanation on two of them: first, the policy of opening up to the Eastern bloc; and second, the loosening of ties with the United States....

Jose Sarney: With regard to the United States, it is important to make things clear. Like the Americans, we belong irreversibly to the Western camp, and we broadly share the same ideals of freedom and the same values. But this does not mean that there should be any dependent relationship between us and them. As Brazil grows and asserts itself on the world market, its interests naturally tend to clash with those of Washington. I, Jose Sarney, have no hesitation in defending Brazil's interests. In a word, I am bringing Brazil-U.S. relations into a phase of mutual respect and maturity. We have become real partners.

Patrick Wajsman: Have you noticed a change in the U.S. Administration's attitude toward you?

Jose Sarney: Certainly. When I visited the United States, we had very difficult discussions. And my aides were told: "This is the first time that a Brazilian president has come here without needing a pat on the head." You see, the age of paternalism is over. We are now negotiating on equal terms. The days of automatic support are over.

Patrick Wajsman: What is the explanation for your policy of "opening up to the Eastern bloc"? Is it mainly an economic necessity or a means of balancing your relations with the United States, the other superpower?

Jose Sarney: The explanation is, in fact, very simple: We have reached a point at which we no longer feel hindered by any ideological barrier at all. This is so true that in international forums—I have noticed this—our positions coincide with those of China on more than 94 percent of questions on which a vote is taken! I sincerely believe that the world in the future will not belong to the "big" countries or the "small" countries. The real border

will be the one between the states which have technologies and those which do not. We Brazilians are doing all we can to be on the right side of history. That is all.

Patrick Wajsman: Sir, allow me to ask one last simple question: What do you want from Europe and France?

Jose Sarney: Europe has always used rhetoric which is very favorable to the ideas of the developing and Third World countries. But this rhetoric is still far removed from action. What we hope, therefore, is that it will become a reality!

Patrick Wajsman: What about France?

Jose Sarney: We have very close, very special, very preferential ties with France. My generation's whole culture—or almost all of it—is of French origin. These historical ties have recently been loosened. But I feel—and I know—that we are going to start again on a good footing.

If I can take the opportunity of our conversation to express a wish, I will say this: Trade is essential, and we must not forget it, but there must be something else between France and Brazil. What unites us Brazilians to France is not mainly commercial considerations. Indeed, with France, there is always "something more."

Engesa Offers Tanks to Middle East Countries

PY2010150088 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Oct 88 p A-6

[By Roberto Lopes]

[Text] General Diogo Figueiredo, chief of the Army War Materiel Department (brother of former President Joao Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo), is visiting the Middle East heading a delegation of the Engesa [Especialized Engineers, Inc.] group. They are trying to sell the Brazilian-made Osorio tank and other military vehicles.

This group will visit Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan. Gen Figueiredo's presence in the group represents the effort by the government to help Engesa export more and overcome its financial difficulties.

Also in the delegation is Brigadier Hugo de Oliveira Piva, retired, former director of the Aerospace Technology Center (CTA) of Sao Jose dos Campos (85 km northeast of Sao Paulo). Until 2 September 1987, Brig Piva was director and vice president of the Sao Paulo research and development company Orbita, Aerospace Systems. Following the recent "cutback" [enxugamento] of Orbita, sponsored by the Aeronautics Ministry, Piva has become a sort of aeronautics consultant to the Engesa group.

His role as head of the delegation that is visiting the Middle East is to attract the interest of Arab countries in rocket projects that will hopefully revitalize Orbita.

Orbita was created in 1987 by merging Engesa with Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Co.] (a company connected with Aeronautics), Imbel [Ordnance Industry] (related to the Army Ministry), and with a group of smaller companies. At that time, Orbita Director-President Vito Antonio Di Grassi predicted that the company could produce up to 6,000 missiles yearly. With the cuts imposed by the Brazilian Air Force (FAB) on resources for the development of an air-to-air missile and with the cancellation of a bid for the development of ground-to-air missiles for the Army, however, Orbita began to face serious difficulties. A "cutback" of company personnel was then found to be necessary.

A special meeting of the company's administrative council held in September eliminated the presidency and the three executives posts, including those of Brig Piva and Di Grassi. A few days ago, talking to a friend, Ozilio Silva (Embraer president), current president of Orbita's deliberative council, confirmed that the company, as of now, will be restricted to "engineering projects for the aeronautics industry."

Chile

General Denies Magazine Story of Coup Attempt

PY2510024188 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Brigadier General Jorge Zincqe has denied reports about an attempted coup d'etat on the night of 5 October. Gen Zincqe, commanding general of the Santiago garrison, has categorically denied reports published by a magazine about an alleged aborted coup d'etat on the night of 5 October.

He added that the strategy being used by terrorists is being studied, especially the recent attacks in the south of the country.

Gen Zincqe made these remarks at the end of the ceremony marking the commemoration of General Bernardo O'Higgins' death. The ceremony was held at the Altar of the Fatherland.

Pinochet Accepts Under Secretaries' Resignations

PY2410192088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1745 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Santiago, 24 Oct (EFE)—Chilean President General Augusto Pinochet today accepted the resignations of the under secretaries of the ministerial cabinet. These under secretaries, except for the five Defense Ministry under secretaries, presented their resignations last Thursday, 20 October.

This report has been released by Interior Ministry Regional Development Under Secretary, Army General Luis Patricio Serre.

Serre stated that Gen Pinochet thanked them for their work and told them that this week the president will call each of the under secretaries to inform them about his final decision. [passage omitted on previously covered material]

13 Under Secretaries Confirmed

PY2510010988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 24 Oct 88

[All names as heard]

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet has confirmed in their posts most of under secretaries who resigned last week.

Under secretaries General Luis Patricio Serre from the Regional Development and Administration Department, Colonel Ramon Valdes from the Foreign Relations Department, Colonel Sergio Moreno from the War Department, and Frigate Captain Jorge Roman from the Navy have been confirmed in their posts.

Colonel Rodolfo Ugarte from the Air Force, Coronel Juan Calsino from the Carabineros Department, Carlos Pintos from the Investigative Department, Lieutenant Colonel Dante Santoni from the Finance Department, Lieutenant Colonel German Garcia from the Public Works Department, and Colonel Nelson Ferrada from the Mining Department were also confirmed in their posts.

Pinochet also confirmed in their posts Colonel Manuel Garate from the Transport Department, Colonel Gustavo Arenas from the Telecommunications Department, and Colonel Luis Alfonso Rivas from the Government General Secretariat.

The official communique, which confirms these 13 under secretaries, also says that the other public servants will remain in their post until the President decides on the matter in the next few days.

Leftist Group Denounces Repression During Rally

PY2410012688 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The United Left [IU] has voiced its strongest protest over the action of Carabineros and security agents against some participants of the rally staged on Sunday, 23 October.

In a public statement the IU reported that participants of the rally were threatened throughout the rally, and that two people were injured early in the day as a result of police action.

During the rally, it has been reported, armed civilians dragged peaceful participants of the rally away and beat them. The IU added that some 50 people were detained during the rally without any reason at all.

The IU added in its statement that the government must understand that the people's pronouncement on 5 October demands the end of repression, respect for liberty, and the return to democracy in our country.

The people will not be threatened by these repressive actions imposed by a regime that was defeated in the plebiscite, and will continue their struggle for the definite end of dictatorship, the IU statement concludes.

Further on United Left Rally

PY2410183588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The United Left [IU] held a rally at the Pila del Ganzo neighborhood in Estacion Central District to mark the 50th anniversary of the Popular Action Front administration headed by Pedro Aguirre Cerda. The turnout at this gathering has shown that the support enjoyed by this sector has substantially decreased.

No more than 8,000 people, most of them members of the outlawed PCCh and of the Movement of the Revolutionary left, attended the rally on General Velazquez Avenue.

During the rally the eccentric singer Florcita Motuda introduced Humanist Party Secretary (Tomas Bisse), who greeted the people in a very Marxist style, thus confirming that the Humanist Party has denifitively turned toward the left. (Bisse) reiterated his intention to create a movement to force President Pinochet's resignation.

Former PCCh Senator Julieta Campuzano, who took the floor after (Bisse), made a brief historical description of the Popular Action Front, whose anniversary celebration was the main objective of the meeting.

IU President Clodomiro Almeyda then addressed the people, harshly criticizing the Constitution, to which he referred as fraudulent.

IU Acting President Anibal Palma made the main speech in which he recalled the 1938 and 1970 presidential election victories and the recent plebiscite. Palma stated that Marxist forces play a major role within the opposition. He pratically attributed the victory of no-vote at the plebiscite to the Marxist forces.

Both Almeyda and Palma referred to the exclusion of the Marxist forces from the opposition.

Several leftist leaders were asked about the tragic attacks perpetrated by terrorists in southern Chile but they did not give specific answers.

Despite the fact that the terrorists claimed responsibility in the attacks, which have been previously announced, the Marxist leaders cast doubts about the official reports.

Almeyda Addresses Rally

PY2410003788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2123 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Santiago, 23 Oct (EFE)—Clodomiro Almeyda, former foreign minister and a leader of the Chilean left, today said that after his defeat at the 5 October plebiscite President Augusto Pinochet must step down to allow the installation of a civilian government.

Clodomiro Almeyda, president of the opposition coalition United Left (IU), was the main speaker at an IU rally today that gathered some 80,000 people.

This is the first time the former foreign minister and vice president of Salvador Allende's administration—which in 1973 was overthrown by the military regime—has been able to speak in public since he was released from prison on 19 October after 1 year and 7 months in jail.

Almeyda said: "The struggle against the dictatorship has not ended. We have only moved to a more favorable stage from which to develop a full democracy."

Almeyda stressed that after 54.4 percent of the people rejected Pinochet's candidacy at the plebiscite the government "is on the defensive and is taking cover regarding the periods established by an antidemocratic and totalitarian Constitution."

Almeyda, who has been deprived of his political and civic rights because of charges of promoting and glorifying violence and disseminating Marxist ideology, said he is the only person in Chile who is serving such a sentence.

Almeyda made a call for a "grand national pact for democracy" to work with the other national political and social groups to reconstruct the country in harmony and reconciliation.

Regarding the Chilean left, Almeyda said: "We want a renovated and multisectorial left, modern in the framework of the world, Latin America, and Chile, and combative, mature, and responsible," not enclosed within itself but open to other political sectors.

The IU is a seven-party coalition that includes the PCCh, Almeyda's faction of the Socialist Party, the "Christian Left," and other smaller groups.

The PCCh and Almeyda's Socialist Party have been declared illegal by the military regime for their public affiliation with Marxist principles.

Anibal Palma, president of the "Social Democratic Radical Party" and acting IU president during the time Almeyda was in jail, stressed the significance of the 5 October plebiscite that "said no to Pinochet, his regime, and his desire to perpetuate himself in power."

Palma said the victory at the plebiscite was possible thanks to the unity of all opposition political parties. He added that this unity must be strengthened and broadened to meet the "challenge of creating the basis of a true democracy."

Palma said the IU thinks the coalition of political parties is not strong enough to confront the military regime.

Palma added that the movement should "be broadened to include all the social sectors which made the victory possible: the labor unions, neighborhood councils, and large mass movements."

During the rally, the 50th anniversary of the accession to power of the "Popular Action Front" (FRAP) was commemorated.

In 1938, coalition of center and left-wing parties elected Pedro Aguirre Cerda president.

Julieta Campusano, a former PCCh senator, reviewed the administration of Pedro Aguirre Cerda, a Radical Party president whose administration was supported by the Democratic, Socialist, and Communist Parties.

Campusano recalled how Cerda's 12-year administration began a period of social and economic prosperity under progressive governments.

Campusano concluded by saying that history has confirmed that in Chile the coalition of the political left and center not only permitted great achievements, but also contributed to stability and order in the country.

PPD To Support Consensus Opposition Candidate

PY2210125888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Leaders of the Chilean Party for Democracy [PPD] have reported that they will probably support a Christian Democratic Party [PDC] candidate elected by consensus of the opposition.

This announcement was made by PPD leaders Guillermo del Valle, Jorge Arrate, and Victor Rebolledo, who released the agreements reached at a meeting of party board members and regional PPD presidents.

They reported that at the meeting they discussed the scope of the plebiscite results and reached some agreements regarding the need to maintain the opposition's unity and to persist in the quest for a dialogue with the government of the Armed Forces and the forces of order.

These leaders have been told that President Pinochet has told politicians who supported him in the plebiscite that he would not be a candidate in the next elections, and that he does not intend to change a word of the Constitution.

Rebolledo reacted to this and stated that the president thus represents the main obstacle to the dialogue the opposition seeks to amend the Constitution.

The PPD leaders reported that they will vote for a single candidate of the opposition. They added that if this candidate belongs to PDC, they are ready to support him and his program without delay, as they would support an independent candidate or a consensus candidate from any other opposition party.

Interior Minister Says New Stage Opens

PY2210022288 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Newly appointed Interior Minister Carlos Caceres has asked the opposition to understand that the country has entered a new stage after the plebiscite, and that the government has faithfully complied with the Constitution, as it has always intended to do. He asked dissident sectors to take the necessary steps to begin the restoration of democracy, and to try to let the people go through that process as calmly as possible.

Asked about a possible dialogue with the opposition, Caceres said that he would first like to analyze, study, and reflect on the subject, and that he would then give his opinion. The minister made these remarks after the swearing- in ceremony.

Minister Caceres also thanked President Pinochet for the confidence that he, Caceres said, has once again shown in me. Caceres recalled that some years ago he held the position of finance minister.

Caceres praised his predecessor, Sergio Fernandez, who, he said, led a political process that deserves praise both at home and abroad.

As for mission that he will fulfill, Caceres said, as President Pinochet said in his speech, the most important thing is to continue to properly discharge government duties and, within the process of modernization, to place the country on the path toward democracy, which should begin in March 1990. [passage omitted]

Electoral Court Orders Dissolution of Party

PY2110015388 Santiago Television Nacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] The electoral court has ordered the dissolution of the Social Democratic Party. The measure was adopted because within a term of 6 months, which is the legal deadline, the party failed to comply with the requirement to establish a party executive board, a regional council, and a party court of honor. The resolution was published in today's official gazette.

The electoral court also rejected a registration request submitted by the Green Party of the metropolitan region because it has not gathered the minimum number of members demanded by the law.

Health Official Reports Number of AIDS Cases

PY1910112888 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 8 Oct 88 p 6

[Summary] Dr Nestor Montesinos, president of the National Commission Against AIDS, has reported that 17 cases have been registered in Chile during the last quarter. The total number of AIDS cases registered in the country since 1984 totals 100.

Colombia

Partial Labor Union-Government Agreement

PA2410123588 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Another meeting between several cabinet ministers and labor union representatives—who have announced a national strike for next Thursday—ended this afternoon. Although the negotiations did not end in a complete breakdown, no agreements were reached on any of the points under discussion.

Cabinet ministers and labor union representatives have come close to agreeing on the seven-point labor union demand, but no agreement has yet been made on any of the seven points. The unions are demanding wage increases to begin 1 November. The government has agreed to increase wages but not to freezing prices until 1 March, as labor union representatives are demanding. The latter was the most difficult point deadlocking a complete agreement, because the workers are convinced that if the government grants wage increases but nevertheless authorizes the traditional December price increases, the workers will lose all their gains. However, in this pushing and shoving match, there has been some agreement, such as, for example, on social security and job protection for union members.

[Begin recording of Government Minister Cesar Gaviria] We can say that agreement in principle has been reached on aspects concerning temporary jobs and agreements under the ILO regarding maternity leave, protection for labor union negotiations, and employment agencies. Agreements have also been reached regarding the rights of victims of violence, human rights, and protection for labor leaders. [end recording]

However, the labor movement insists that the agreement must be all or nothing.

[Begin recording of Central Labor Union President Jorge Carrillo] Agreement must be complete. We have achieved rapprochement on government compliance with regard to agreements it signed with civic organizations. [end recording]

The labor unions also demanded direct talks with President Barco and appealed to the guerrillas not to participate in the protest. Just 76 hours before the strike is to begin, both sides are not dismissing the possibility that the other side will be willing to compromise a little more regarding its position.

Rebels Reply to Barco; 40 Die in 'Offensive'
PA2510030688 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0137 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Bogota, 24 Oct (REUTER)—According to military sources, a bloody guerrrilla offensive today left 35 guerrillas and 5 soldiers dead, 6 civilians wounded, and 5 bridges partially destroyed.

The outbreak of the violence coincided with the reply from all the rebel groups to an official peace plan and with the confirmation by the labor federations that they will hold a general strike on Thursday despite government efforts to prevent it.

The so-called National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNG) proposed to President Virgilio Barco the holding of a summit between the rebel leaders and the government, defense, and energy and mines ministers at a place and date to be agreed upon.

The document proposed that the mediator of the dialogue be the Democratic Coexistence Commission [Comision de Convivencia Democratica], headed by Msgr Dario Castrillon, president of the Latin American Bishops Conference. The document is viewed as the CNG's official reply to the government's peace plan.

Guerrillas of the FARC and the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) attacked four towns in northern Colombia, leaving 17 guerrillas and 2 soldiers dead and 3 bridges partially destroyed.

The Defense Ministry reported that FARC guerrillas ambushed a military convoy in Huila Department, killing three soldiers. It also reported that three rebels were killed in clashes in southern Colombia.

It added that nine guerrillas of the Army of National Liberation were killed in clashes with troops of the 4th Infantry Brigade on the border of Antioquia and Choco Departments and that six FARC rebels were killed in Caqueta Department.

Suspected guerrillas dynamited at dusk a bridge in Bogota's urban center, injuring six people. The bridge did not sustain major damage. Another bridge was blown up in Santander Department.

Military sources said these were rebel actions in support of the strike and they charged that workers, peasants, and bus drivers are being threatened to force them to join the strike.

President Virgilio Barco headed a meeting of the National Security Council to adopt measures to prevent disorders during the planned strike and to guarantee public transportation for the people.

The government and the workers yesterday broke off their talks after being unable to reach agreement on an increase of the minimum wage and on a freeze in the prices of staples.

The strike, called by the United Workers Confederation and the General Confederation of Labor, will protest the fact that the government has not replied to labor demands they presented in May.

11 Rebels, 1 Policeman Killed in Clashes
PA2410130588 Paris AFP in Spanish 1225 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Bogota, 24 Oct (AFP)—The Colombian Defense Ministry has reported that 11 guerrillas and 1 policeman were killed today in violent clashes that took place in the banana-growing area of Uraba Department, northwestern Colombia. Mixed commands of the communist FARC and the Marxist-Leninist Popular Liberation Army attacked the towns of Necocli, Arboletes, Saisa, Currulao, and Turbo.

At 1200 GMT, two guerrillas were injured while infantry troops with air support were pursuing rebels who carried out one of the most violent attacks of the last few months at a time when Colombia is threatened with a general workers strike to begin on 27 October.

Ecuador

Borja on 'Understanding' With Popular Democracy
PA2310200388 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Interview with President Rodrigo Borja Ceballos by unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Borja] The understanding we have with Popular Democracy is a patriotic understanding that responds to current needs and problems. That understanding is part of the promises I made during my electoral campaign. I said I would invite the most capable, honest, well-intentioned, and committed people in the country to cooperate with my government. I said I would invite those people to help me solve the many serious problems Ecuadoreans are facing.

[Reporter] How was the meeting with Popular Democracy?

[Borja] It was a dialogue more than anything else. We met to coordinate actions, review what we already have done, and, above all, discuss future actions and solutions to the country's problems.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] greater power [words indistinct]?

[Borja] I would not do it. There has been no petition or even insinuation that Popular Democracy wants a larger share of power. None at all.

[Reporter] Can you say the participation of Popular Democracy in the government was strengthened?

[Borja] I do not think our [words indistinct] was ever weakened. Your question implies problems or disagreements.

[Reporter] Some political groups [words indistinct].

[Borja] That is not true. The understanding between the two parties has never been endangered. There have been no problems between the parties. There is absolute understanding between the two parties and with members of the independent board [junta independiente], which is also participating in our government. We cannot say if the understanding between the Democratic Left and Popular Democracy has been strengthened or improved. Things remain as well as at the beginning of our government. The representatives of the two parties have a deep patriotic awareness. Other groups that support and cooperate with the government also share that awareness. Those patriotic groups are also interested in seeking solutions to the worrisome problems Ecuador is facing.

On Andean, Colombian Ties

PA2210030388 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Oct 88 p 12-B

["Exclusive" interview with President Rodrigo Borja by unidentified reporter—date and place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] How do you view the future of the Andean Group?

[Borja] Unity is essential to promote economic and social development in Latin America. The Latin American countries cannot face the challenges of the contemporary world in an isolated manner. Latin American unity is essential to defend the region's social, economic, and trade interests in view of the process of consolidation of the EEC, the negotiations for a trade opening between the United States and Canada, and the recent coordination of economic policies of the main industrialized countries.

With the idea of Latin American unity in mind, the Andean Group has proved it is possible to expand our markets and increase trade within the Andean subregion. Until 1981, Andean trade showed remarkable growth, which allowed the diversification of exportable goods in the five member states of the Andean Group. Since the beginning of the world economic crisis in 1982, trade within the Andean region declined as a result of the financial difficulties from servicing the debt and from declining exports to European and U.S. markets.

In view of the stagnation in the growth process, the Andean countries sought new ways to promote unity within the region. They sought more flexible ways to open the road for the formation of an Andean market without changing the basic goals of unity: To promote a harmonious and balanced development of the Andean countries through coordination of their economic policies and the expansion of their markets. The ultimate goal is to improve the standard of living of the most needy sectors of our populations.

Cooperation from all sectors, including the governments, businesses, workers, political leaders, students, and society as a whole, is necessary to achieve the goals I mentioned before.

With that cooperation we would be creating a collective awareness of our common problems. That awareness would promote not only economic, but political, social, and cultural unity.

The Ecuadoran Government will continue to promote Latin American unity and will fulfill the obligations assumed in the modifying protocol of the Cartagena agreement.

[Reporter] What do you think of the economic and trade relations between Ecuador and Colombia?

[Borja] The economic and trade relations between Ecuador and Colombia are satisfactory both in their volume and variety.

The potential of the trade flow, however, encourages us to envision improved trade relations if the following measures are adopted:

Periodic revision and negotiation of trade agreements to prepare lists of products and market prices with the participation of the authorities and private businesses of the two countries.

A more adequate control of illegal trade activities, especially smuggling, which affects revenues and harms the normal supply activities in several areas, especially the border areas.

More cooperation between the border areas to improve the standard of living of the population in those areas.

Joint projects such as electric interconnection, geothermic energy exploitation, and the joint exploitation of minerals and oil resources in the border areas. These projects are an example of joint cooperation and are examples of good neighbor policies between Ecuador and Colombia.

I supported the program for the cleaning and use of the basins of the San Miguel and Putumayo Rivers in accordance with the plans of the mixed commission for Amazonian cooperation. I also supported the construction of the international bridge over the San Miguel River. I am sure international organizations will support programs like these and will back them financially.

In addition, the Colombian and Ecuadoran authorities established special information and cooperation channels, because the two countries are determined to eradicate drug trafficking in the area.

[Reporter] Do you have a message for the Colombian people?

[Borja] The visit by distinguished Colombian President Virgilio Barco to Quito on 10 August gave me an opportunity to discuss very important topics with him. We talked about bilateral relations, the future of the Andean region, and Latin American solidarity.

I concluded from that meeting that Colombia and Ecuador share common goals and challenges and that we must spare no efforts to make the influence of Colombia and Ecuador felt in the international community.

I want to use this occasion to send warm greetings to all Colombia to whom I am linked through many ties of affection and friendship since I often visited there as a sportsman and enjoyed Colombian hospitality.

Government To Examine Andean Pact Proposals

PA2410234788 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Juan Jose Pons, Ecuadoran minister of industry, integration, and fishing, reported to the Cartagena Agreement Commission in Lima on the position of President Rodrigo Borja's government regarding the Andean integration process.

Pons said the government will examine the proposal to reduce the taxes to be paid by the country in accordance with the Andean trade tax-reduction program, a proposal that was presented by the board [not further identified] as directed by the Quito protocol.

According to a Lima report, the proposals presented by the board and analyzed by the commission include reduction of taxes to be paid by Ecuador, application of protection clauses, administrative trade payrolls, and lifting nontariff restrictions on trade between Andean countries.

Energy Minister Supports OPEC 'Common Front'

PA2110152988 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Oct 88 p A-1

[Text] Energy and Mines Minister Diego Tamariz has expressed support for the establishment of an OPEC common front to defend petroleum prices, which suffered their most serious drop so far this year last week.

That front would be supported by non-OPEC members once OPEC reaches an accord regarding its policy and marketing mechanisms, he said.

Tamariz, who recently returned from Caracas and Bogota, said if no accord is reached at an upcoming OPEC meeting in November in Vienna, "the market could face a disaster; but if an accord is reached, prices will recover."

The minister said the position of Ecuador, one of OPEC's 13 members, is that OPEC must promote greater stability and strengthen prices rather than seek a greater share of the oil market. He pointed out: "We will cooperate in efforts to reach agreements and adjust flexible quotas."

He called for the definition of OPEC's short-, medium-, and long-term strategies through an analysis of demand levels, production, and oil inventories in industrialized countries.

However, Tamariz said political factors make the future of the petroleum market unpredictable. It is estimated that daily production totals 20 million barrels, approximately 4 million more than the OPEC ceiling of 15.6 million.

Paraguay

Members of 'Extremist' Group Arrested

PY2110170688 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 21 Oct 88 pp 11, 12

[Excerpts] The Interior Ministry has issued a communique announcing the dismantling of an extremist organization that operated under the name "Education and Social Assistance Service" [Servicio de Educacion y Apoyo Social—SEAS]. The SEAS distributed material of a clear Marxist content and called for a struggle of the classes. A total of six people have been arrested, two of them Paraguayans. The remaining arrested people—two Italians, one Belgian, and one German—had all arrived in the country as priests but later gave up their priesthood.

According to the communique, "at approximately 0900 on 13 October 1988, specialized personnel of the Interior Ministry National Technical Affairs Directorate followed their precise orders that were based on information obtained by the intelligence department of the mentioned directorate and carried out an operation which led to the

arrest of Luis Gonzaga Gayoso Davalos, Victor Barreiro Roa, Antonio Cagna, Silvano Tesei, Michel Adolphe Chislain Derieux, and Peter Paul Marie Theis."

Gayoso Davalos and Roa are Paraguayans. Gayoso Davalos was arrested "as he was going to pick up the leaflets being printed at the 'Fotocopiadora Zona Verde' printing shop, located on Eligio Ayala Street between Tacuary and Antequera Streets, in Asuncion. He was going to take the leaflets to the 'Education and Social Assistance Service' office, located at 749 Eligio Ayala Street, near the corner of Antequera Street in Asuncion. Accompanied by Gayoso Davalos, the directorate personnel inspected the office, the documents, and a great quantity of printed material that was confiscated when proven to have a clearly subversive content." [passage omitted]

The communique states that "the four foreigners had given up their priesthood, married, become employees of the Churches Committee, and, between 1985 and 1987, founded the so-called 'Education and Social Assistance Service,' which lacks legal status, in order to carry out their activities in which they were caught at the time of their arrest."

The report goes on to say that "Victor Bareiro Roa and Luis Gonzaga Gayoso Davalos, also arrested for the same reason, belong to the self-styled 'Popular Democratic Movement' (MDP), to which the former foreign priests are close advisers. According to the information obtained, the SEAS receives economic support from foreign organizations. They also maintain that they have the support of the Third Franciscan Order and the Paraguayan Catholic Church and that they give talks wherever the Social Pastoral office may request them."

According to the report, the "titles of the most important leaflets confiscated are: 'Our Society Today,' 'History of the Peasant Struggles in Paraguay,' 'A Portion of Our History and Land,' 'The Latin American Reality,' etc. They were written individually or jointly by the arrested people. These leaflets were distributed during 'training courses' in the suburbs of Asuncion and in towns and villages in the interior, with the help of illegal social, union, and peasant organizations." [passage omitted]

The Interior Ministry report ends by stating that "in compliance with the Geneva Convention, the arrested foreigners were visited by representatives of the Italian, Belgium, and German Consulates accredited to the national government. The Interior Ministry National Technical Affairs Directorate has sent all the corresponding information, through the appropriate channels, to the General Immigration Directorate."

Foreign Citizens Expelled

PY2210215988 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 22 Oct 88 p 8

[Text] Former Italian priests Antonio Cagna and Silvano Tesei and former Belgian priest Michel Adolphe Chislain Derieux were expelled this morning from Paraguay. [FRG citizen] Peter Paul Maria Theis, who left by plane for Brazil, was expelled from the country yesterday afternoon.

The two Italians and the Belgian were taken by police to Puerto Falcon, at the Argentine-Paraguayan border. There they were stopped by Argentine customs because they did not have the appropriate documents to enter Argentina.

Today attorney Alejandro Ladalardo and the wives of the three foreigners were trying to obtain the required entry documents at the Italian Embassy.

Because of the events that followed their arrest on 13 October, it became quite clear that the former priests were going to be expelled.

Police charged the former priests with "engaging in subversive activities, with attempting to divide Paraguayan society," and with committing other crimes. Police based these charges on the leaflets and documents seized from the office where the expelled foreigners were working, the Education and Social Assistance Service (SEAS).

Peru

Garcia on Upcoming Group of Eight Summit

PY2110152488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1858 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Lima, 20 Oct (EFE)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia today stated that the forthcoming "summit" of presidents of the Group of Eight countries, which will be held in Uruguay between 27 and 29 October, will serve "to set the basis for and to strengthen" regional unity.

In a conversation with representatives of five press media, including EFE, Alan Garcia stated that it is most important that the "Group of Eight is not discouraged in its tasks."

The "Group of Eight" emerged from the merger of the Contadora and its Support Group, and comprises Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Panama, although the latter has been removed temporarily due to its internal political situation.

Garcia declined to make an assessment of the results of the previous "summit" conference of presidents of the "Group of Eight," which was held in Acapulco (Mexico) in 1987.

"I would not be so impolite to my colleagues to make an assessment. That must be made by all presidents of the Group of Eight. I cannot say whether we have taken a step forward of backward, or whether we have fulfilled the objectives outlined in Acapulco," he added.

Regarding the Central American situation, Alan Garcia, whose government supports the Nicaraguan Sandinist revolutionary process, stated that "times have changed" in the region.

He said: "It seems that there will be no more U.S. aid to the contras." He added that the Nicaraguan armed organization "is falling apart."

According to the Peruvian president, the causes of the generalized economic crisis in Latin America must be the main subject for discussions at the "summit" conference to be held at the Uruguayan resort of Punta del Este.

Alan Garcia added that Latin American reserves and production can grow if we do not pay the regional foreign debt, estimated at some $420 billion.

He stated: "All Latin American leaders know that the debt problem exists because more capital is leaving than entering the country. If this is the case, and all experts say it is, it is essential for each of our countries, regardless of how poor they may be, to adopt a decision on the debt and a national development model so as to grow in a more independent manner." [passage omitted]

Meets With De la Madrid

PY2410024088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Lima, 23 Oct (EFE)—Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid today made a technical stopover in Lima on his way to Montevideo and held a 1-hour meeting with his Peruvian counterpart, Alan Garcia.

De la Madrid stopped in Lima on his way to Montevideo, where tonight he will begin an official visit before the presidential summit conference of the Group of Eight that will begin on Thursday, 27 October, in Punta del Este, 140 km from Montevideo.

Garcia received De la Madrid in the military area of the "Jorge Chavez" International Airport, at the foot of the stairs of the Mexican Air Force "Boeing 757" that is carrying the Mexican president.

The two presidents held a 65-minute meeting in a hall at the airport, but nothing has been released on the subjects discussed at the meeting, which is the third between the two presidents.

At the same time, the foreign and economy ministers of the two countries held a parallel meeting. [passage omitted]

Transport Workers Stop Strike, Begin Talks

PY2310204988 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The city and interprovincial transport system returned to normal today after transport union authorities decided to suspend the strike that began on 17 October.

Lima Mayor Jorge del Castillo has said the 15-day negotiating period that union leaders granted the city to achieve results in the negotiations is sheer blackmail. The mayor added that city will not grant any amnesty to those bus lines whose concessions had been canceled. Those who feel they have been unjustly penalized can file a petition for reconsideration, he said. Castillo added that bus fares will not change because of the negotiations.

Transport Minister Camilo Carrillo, after expressing his pleasure at the union decision to end the strike, said the government has granted them tax breaks and concessions to import tires. The minister added that his department is preparing regulations so that interstate cargo transport contracts are granted after public competitions.

Hundreds of passenger buses returned to work today after the announcement of the end of the strike that began on 17 October. Yesterday, transport union leaders met at their offices with representatives of the Lawyers Association, the Engineers Association, the Rectors Assembly, the Journalists Association, and the Freedom and Democracy Institute and decided to suspend the strike for a period of 15 days in order to negotiate with the government in a climate of calm and achieve a definitive solution to their problem.

Over 100 bus lines operate in the capital. They should begin full operation beginning 24 October. However, those lines that had their concessions suspended will not be able to operate until their situations are resolved. These lines include bus lines No 80, 73-A, 73-B, 164, 92, 55, 22, 46, 47, 31, 124, and 28. [passage omitted]

New Group Claims Responsibility for Attack

PY2110220588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0424 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Ayacucho, 20 Oct (EFE)—A new terrorist group, which claims to be a dissident faction of the ruling APRA party, issued a communique here today claiming responsibility for a bomb attack against the house of a local APRA leader last Monday.

The self-styled "Braulio Zaga Command" [Comando Braulio Zaga], named after the mayor of San Juan district, in Ayacucho Department, who was killed three years ago by Shining Path terrorists, today sent to several mass media a communique reporting its attack.

According to the communique, the members of the command are APRA members who "have gone underground" to fight the "shameless immorality" of APRA leaders and Ayacucho public servants.

The communique states that the command attacked the house of Fritz Espinoza, the APRA secretary general in Ayacucho. The bombing damaged the facade of Espinoza's house but caused no casualties.

The command also threatens to attack another government official and a congressman, both from the APRA party.

The rightist "Rodrigo Franco Command" [Comando Rodrigo Franco] also sent a communique to the mass media reiterating the threat it issued on 24 September against two lawyers and four journalists, to whom the command gave 45 days, beginning 10 October, to leave Ayacucho.

Uruguay

Mexico's De la Madrid Arrives for Visit

PY2410135288 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The first of the presidents who will participate in the Group of Eight summit to take place in Punta del Este starting 27 October has arrived in Uruguay. Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid arrived yesterday, 3 days before he is due to participate in the Group of Eight summit. De la Madrid arrived with his entourage at a little over 2300 last night. This morning he will begin a series of activities that will occupy his time until 27 October, when he will depart for Punta del Este to meet his Colombian, Argentine, Brazil, Peruvian, Venezuelan, and Uruguayan counterparts.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano met President de la Madrid last night at the airport. This morning an official reception will be held in front of the Libertad Building. De la Madrid will then meet with Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti while representatives of the two countries hold talks to work out the details of the agreements that the two presidents will sign.

Uruguayan Foreign Ministry sources have stated that the two presidents will review the integration accords that Uruguay has implemented with Brazil and Argentina. Mexico has already voiced an interest in joining these accords, and the two presidents are certain to discuss this issue.

During his stay in Montevideo, the Mexican president will visit the Supreme Court, and tomorrow he will appear before Congress where he will address the formal session that will be held in his honor. On Wednesday he is scheduled to go to the ALADI headquarters, where he will address the representatives of that organization, to which Mexico and many other Latin American countries belong.

President de la Madrid's agenda prior to the Group of Eight meeting is very full. His meeting with Sanguinetti will take place at 0950 this morning. Thirty minutes earlier, De la Madrid will be given a formal reception, including a 21-gun salute, at the Libertad Building.

Calls for Nicaragua Aid

PY2410203688 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1416 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Montevideo, 24 Oct (AFP)—Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid today urged Latin American countries to show active solidarity with Nicaragua following the Hurricane Joan disaster that has left many victims and caused considerable damage to the country.

De la Madrid made this call shortly after his arrival in Uruguay, begining his 3-day official visit to the country and 72 hours before the Group of Eight summmit meeting that is scheduled to begin on 27 October in Punta del Este, 140 km east of Montevideo.

The Mexican president arrived in Uruguay after 0000 local time (0300 GMT). De la Madrid was welcomed at Carrasco International Airport by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano and Mexican Ambassador to Uruguay Alejandro Castillon.

Asked about the importance of the Group of Eight meeting, De la Madrid said he would wait after the end of the meeting to comment on it.

De la Madrid answered questions regarding the Hurricane Joan disaster in Nicaragua: We, the Latin American countries, express our solidarity with the Nicaraguan people because we know of their suffering. I think we must help Nicaragua to overcome this national disaster, De la Madrid said.

Meets With Sanguinetti

PY2510020388 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Report by Lino Torres from Government House]

[Excerpt] Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid discussed bilateral and international issues during a meeting they held in the Libertad Building a couple of hours ago.

The two presidents spoke about the [words indistinct] trade between the two countries. The volume of trade has been increasing lately, so they are considering an increase in the list of goods traded.

As for international affairs, they discussed the upcoming Group of Eight summit and its agenda. They mainly discussed a political consensus, regional security, and integration.

Upon leaving the Libertad Building, the Mexican president said that considerable advances are expected in the fields of regional trade, Latin American integration, the foreign debt, and the fight against drug trafficking during the Punta del Este summit. President Miguel de la Madrid said that Mexico understands that drug trafficking is an international crime that must be fought from all angles—production, trafficking, distribution, and consumption. He said that international cooperation is needed to fight drug trafficking and that each country must assume its own responsibility. However, he said that the United States plays an important role, because it is the largest drug consumer of the world.

Regarding the bilateral agreements between the two countries, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano and Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda will sign the appropriate documents on 26 October. The signing ceremony, which will be the last the Mexican president will attend, will take place in the Plaza Independencia Building of Government House at 1100. The two presidents will give short speeches during the ceremony. [passage omitted]

OAS Secretary General Arrives in Montevideo

PY2010164988 Montevideo Radio Libertad Sport Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Excerpt] OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares arrived in Montevideo this morning. He will meet with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today at 1600. This morning Baena Soares gave a speech at the ALADI headquarters. [recorded passage omitted]

Guyana

Hoyte Comments on Economy, Reform Program

FL2110192688 Bridgetown CANA in English 1720 GMT 21 Oct 88

[By Courtney Gibson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 21, CANA—Financially hard-pressed Guyana has announced the essentials of its proposed economic recovery programme, including plans for exchange rate changes—taken here to mean devaluation—debt rescheduling and removal of price controls.

President Desmond Hoyte, in an address to the Supreme Congress of the People, painted a dismal picture of the state of the economy and gave notice that its whole structure must be revamped. "The persistent problems...are inherent in the very structure of the economy-...they cannot be solved unless the whole economic structure is drastically overhauled. To merely tinker with economic reform would be an exercise in futility," he declared.

The Guyanese leader projected that gross domestic product would grow by less than one percent in 1988 and that the central government's deficit would rise from Guy700 million dollars in 1987 to 1.2 billion dollars this year. He said rescheduling of U.S.1.2 billion dollars of the country's total debt of up to U.S.1.8 billion dollars was an essential component of the package as set out in government's policy framework paper already endorsed by multilateral lending institutions. He said other aspects include the provision of an additional U.S.150 million dollars to support the public sector's three-year investment programme and bridging finance of U.S.165 million dollars to enable the country to pay off arrears owing to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

He said the financial package, which also involves the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), includes sufficient balance of payments support to sustain a three-year programme of adjustment.

Hoyte listed as some of the policies which will constitute "essential components" of the recovery programme:

—The liberalisation of Guyana's trade regime, involving the removal of a wide range of goods from licencing requirements. This, he said, has already been done in respect of imports originating within the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and goods for personal use not requiring foreign exchange from the local banking system. It also involves the removal of commodities from the list of prohibited imports with the exception of some specific food items so as to safeguard the country's food security programme and protect local farmers.

—The removal of price controls from commodities, with the exception of a core of essential food and other items.

—The reduction of the public sector deficit by a combination of increased revenues and cost-effective measures.

—The reduction of the rate of inflation through a combination of measures, including interest rate mechanisms and control of credit and the improvement of the efficiency and financial performance of public sector enterprises.

Hoyte said that his government will pursue a policy of active exchange rate management and that once the rate has been established it will be necessary to adjust it as international trading and other circumstances dictate: This was the clearest signal yet from the government that there will definitely be a devaluation/revaluation of the Guyana dollar as part of the economic recovery programme.

Hoyte said that while the policy of active exchange rate management cannot, by itself, solve the country's economic problems, it should eventually help reverse the decline in the standard of living of the majority of the Guyanese. He said he expects the change in operating the exchange rate to benefit the population by promoting employment and steady and sustainable growth in agriculture, trade, and industry and by helping to restore the quality and availability of social services.

He noted, however, that the process of adjustment is likely to impose additional hardships on the vulnerable sections of the society particularly those on pension, the unemployed, and underemployed—the urban and rural poor. But, he added, the government is currently formulating a programme to address the problems of these vulnerable categories and in this regard will be receiving additional assistance from external government and non-governmental agencies.

Hoyte noted that for some years the country had no net foreign exchange reserves. The reserves moved from minus U.S.500 million dollars in 1985 to minus U.S.647 million dollars last year and are projected to sink even lower to about minus U.S.700 million dollars by the end of this year.

Hoyte said the central government deficit climbed from G219 million (1 Guy dlr; 10 U.S. cents) in 1985 to 295 million dollars in 1986 to 700 million dollars in 1987. He said this year the deficit is expected to reach a whopping 1.2 billion dollars, indicating the extent to which the government has been financing its deficits by internal borrowing not supported by increased production and savings in the economy. "We were printing more money which contributed to the high rate of inflation we have been experiencing within recent years," Hoyte said.

Hoyte said that while the country's real gross domestic product (GDP) had grown steadily between three and five per cent per annum during the 1970's since the turn of the decade, it has not been able to maintain this rate of growth only exceeding one per cent in one year and was unlikely to do so this year. The overall public sector deficit, which in 1985 stood at G677 million dollars, rose to G718 million dollars last year.

The Guyanese leader said that "in the light of enormous unanticipated problems" this year it is unlikely that the target of reducing the deficit to 700 dollars [figure as received] would be achieved.

The gap in balance of payments on the current account—the difference betweens the value of goods and services imported and the value of those exported—moved from G426 million dollars in 1985 to G497 million in 1986, to 435 million in 1987. It is projected to stand at 814 million dollars by the end of this year.

Hoyte said that the sum total of Guyana's foreign indebtedness today "is between 1.6 billion U.S. dollars and 1.8 billion U.S. dollars and that of this amount about 1.2 billion U.S. dollars is due, owing and payable or will soon become so."

The president noted that while for some years the country has had no net foreign reserves and has been "living on borrowings" which in many cases represented involuntary loans, it has entered into a vicious circle which remains with it today. "Our foreign exchange reserves have dwindled, our deficits have widened, our debts have accumulated and our real GDP has stagnated. All of this has resulted in the loss of skilled manpower, underutilised produciton capacity, unsatisfactory performances in public sector enterprises, and deteriorating physical plant, infrastructure, and service," Hoyte said.

Government, he said, has fashioned an economic recovery about the necessary fundamental changes with the cooperation of multilateral financial agencies, including the IMF and friendly donor countries. "It was towards the end of the 1970's that the structural weaknesses and vulnerability of our economy created a peculiarly intractable problem and precipitated the crisis which we are still struggling to overcome," he explained.

He said there is much goodwill and support overseas for the way Guyana is confronting its economic problem, but stressed that Guyanese must ensure that conditions of internal stability are preserved.

Government Denies Talks on Electoral Reforms

FL2410225388 Bridgetown CANA in English 2043 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 23, CANA—The Guyana Government has stressed that it has not been holding "talks on electoral reforms or any other issues" with the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) as was alleged by PPP leader, Dr Cheddi Jagan, at a press conference Thursday.

Dr Jagan had said the government last Wednesday aborted "talks on electoral reform" and accused the PPP of "inflamatory statements and criminal behaviour" and of arson in the sugar industry.

In a statement issued through the Ministry of Information, the government said that while it had agreed to meet and had met with the PPP which had said it wished "to make certain representations" to government, it would receive no further representation from the PPP until that party "is prepared to conduct its activities within the constitutional framework." The government quoted from correspondence between itself and the PPP to back its position that it has not been holding talks on electoral reform with the PPP, and accused Dr Jagan of "indulging in self deception and attempting to mislead the public."

The fact of the matter is the so-called talks to which Dr Jagan referred, were not "talks" on electoral reforms or any other issue. The government merely agreed to allow the PPP to make representations on such matters as they might care to raise. There was never any question of "talks", the government said.

It accused the PPP of not adhering to any of the six matters the government raised with it on August 9 and which the government considered vital for the creation of a proper climate for the continuation of meetings to listen to PPP representations.

It listed the six matters as demands for the PPP to:

—"To stop promoting racism or pursuing any activities likely to create racial hostility and conflict,

—"Publicly disassociate the party from the scurrilous attack on Dr Mohammded Shahubuddeen, judge of the International Court of Justice,

—"Stop maligning Guyana abroad,

—"Stop inviting foreigners to meddle in the internal affairs of Guyana,

—"For minority leader (Dr Jagan) to respect the Constitution by making himself available for consultations as required by the Constitution and,

—"Respect the Constitution by attending sessions of the Supreme Congress of the People and participating in its debates."

The government charged that instead of adhering to the six conditions, the PPP has embarked upon a campaign to disrupt the economy by inciting workers in the sugar belt to acts of violence and sabotage.

"Already, as a result of this campaign, large acreages of cane have been burnt at Enmore and attempts to burn bridges have been made," the government said in its statement. It added: "Having regard to the continued bad faith of the PPP and its continued association with violence and sabotage, the government sees no useful purpose in even listening to any representations of that party." This position, it said, was conveyed to the PPP when its representatives were summoned to a meeting last Wednesday and given a statement by the government's representative to the meeting, minister of regional development, Jeffrey Thomas.

"The government does not propose to receive any further representations from the PPP until that party desists from fomenting disorder, arson, and violence and is prepared to conduct its activities within the constitutional framework," the statement said.

Suriname

Government, Bush Negro Officials Begin Talks

FL2010212188 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Yesterday, finally a start has been made in the discussion between the Suriname Government and the Bush Negro officials regarding east Suriname. A 19-man strong delegation from the (Saramaccanus) held talks with President Ramsewak Shankar at the presidential palace. The meeting was also attended by Vice President Henk Arron and Minister of Regional Development [name indistinct].

The discussions regarding east Suriname started some 4 months ago after the tribal chiefs of the Bush Negro tribes were invited by the government to discuss the issue. After confusing reports from the standpoints of the tribal chiefs, it was unclear whether the Bush Negro officials would travel to Paramaribo for discussions with the government.

The delegation from the (Saramaccanus) tribe is not led by tribal Chief Aboikoni because of old age and illness. Chief captain (Aboida), who is leading the delegation, said that everybody in the interior experiences the consequences of the armed conflict and they want to cooperate in finding a solution in the matter.

President Shankar expressed the hope that the discussion will lead to positive results. The discussions with the delegations will be continued tomorrow.

'Terrorists' Attack Brokopondo Police Station

FL2110193188 Parmaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] A big gang of terrorists last Wednesday attacked a police station at the (?guesthouse) in the Brokopondo district. The policemen who were at the station, were not [words indistinct] after being manhandled and robbed.

The terrorists took a variety of consumer items and [words indistinct] police uniforms and vehicles. The attackers are believed to (?belong) to the oil palm company, Victoria, where they sold cooking oil, fuel, and lubricating oil. [passage indistinct] It consisted of 20 to 35 men.

The attacks are coming at the moment when negotiators have started discussions with the delegation of Bush Negro officials on the peace process.

In an official announcement, the government has [words indistinct]. In the meantime, police have been deployed to strengthen the station at Brokopondo.

Agreement Reached on Spending Netherlands Aid

FL2010203088 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Vice President Henk Arron has yesterday evening, in a televised speech, said that Suriname and Holland have reached an agreement on the question of the spending of the bridge-over aid from Holland for the next 6 months.

He said that medicines and raw materials were imported industries and spare parts for these industries will be bought. Arron said that not only the production of the goods has been assured, but also the jobs.

The vice president, who also talked about the food situation, said that the Surinamese Government will buy the current shipment of imported consumer items but is overexhausted. He said that the food situation is also guaranteed for the next 6 months.

Arron said that starting from 1 July next year, he will not cooperate in the import of onion. He said that onions can be cultivated locally and that the Army will be used for the confiscation of this commodity.